Foreign
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ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-049
Wednesday
13 March 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

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Japan

NHK Interview With Prime Minister Kaifu

OW1203150691 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1300 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu by Takashi Yamamoto and Yoko Sakurai on 12 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Yamamoto] We know you are very busy but thanks for giving us this chance to interview you. Today, we would like to ask you mainly about issues concerning aid for post-Gulf war reconstruction as well as about Japan's role in this regard. My first question concerns, shall I say, lessons we have learned from the Gulf war. During the seven months that the world was shaken by the war, what was your strongest feeling?

[Kaifu] Frankly speaking, East-West frictions were ending, and the world was just overcoming the era of detente. Just as we were hoping that the world would now enjoy genuine peace and prosperity, Iraq undertook its reckless invasion and annexation by forceful means. The international community took concerted action in standing up to such actions.

My first reaction was that since it is often said that Japan should act as a member of the international community, it is all the more important that Japan should do whatever is within its ability as a member of the international community on such an occasion. Japan must fulfill its responsibility as a member of the international community. This is what I felt.

[Yamamoto] As you have just mentioned, Japan has never before been asked to fulfill its responsibility or its role as a member of the international community in the way that it was asked to during this war. I think that there has been a great change in our people's feelings about our contributions to the international community. However, under such circumstances, various noteworthy opinions were voiced. While some say that in dealing with the situation, Japan has done just as it was told by the United States, others say that Japan should have pursued its own independent diplomacy. What will be your answers to such criticisms?

[Kaifu] As far as Japan is concerned, Japan has to go back to the start of the postwar period 45 years ago. We did cause many troubles to our Asian neighbors. Based on this severe lesson, from which we have learned, we must act as a nation that will cause no trouble for others and that is willing to work and sweat. We have started from the idea that we should and must try to attain our humble well-being in some isolated corner through our own efforts.

However, the world now watches us and says that with all her economic power, Japan should not enjoy its own well-being in an isolated corner. Now that Japan alone is responsible for nearly 15 percent of the world's total GNP, it goes without saying that demands that Japan assume some responsibilities have been voiced throughout the world and the international community. Frankly speaking, at this iuncture in time, Japan, compared to others, failed to take one step forward or institute sufficient discussions on what it might do to contribute to the international community. This is what I have keenly felt.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Prime Minister, you have often emphasized the principle of attaching importance to the United Nations. I feel that on the current occasion, the United States took actions which respected the will of the United Nations. On the other hand, some people feel that the United States has merely taken advantage of UN resolutions. The United Nations itself seems to have limits to its functions or its capabilities. When we take into account the postwar settlement period, I think we have to think about the strengthening the functions, in a real sense, of the United Nations. What is your view?

[Kaifu] When I read the UN Charter, I felt that as a people who have experienced as many as two wars in our lifetimes, we must take note of the lofty ideal that neighboring nations should get along on friendly terms and in peace. I feel that if we attach importance to this charter, pacifism and the principle of promoting international coordination as stated in our Constitution may become like two intersecting circles. I was very impressed; I have since watched the development of the United Nations with great interest.

This time, it was the United Nations itself that assumed the role of safeguarding peace. During the period of ideological confrontation, the UN Security Council failed to function properly. This time, all member nations, namely the United Nations, the Soviet Union, China, France, and Great Britain, were present at the Security Council. The Security Council has adopted various resolutions, including one on the existence of a threat to peace and another on the restoration of peace to the international community.

In this connection, I feel that we must take good care of it. I am very sorry, but I have to disagree with you. It was none other than the United States that has played the leading role in conducting the series of recent actions. It should be noted, however, that as many as 28 nations have taken part in the UN multinational forces. Well, I may have gone too far in saying that the multinational forces belong to the United Nations. They have joined the multinational forces which were organized on the basis of the UN resolutions, and in order to effectively carry out these resolutions, they have jointly resorted to the use of force, eliminated the invading troops, and liberated Kuwait.

Therefore, in stressing the principle of attaching importance to the United Nations, I mean that the UN functions should be further upgraded so that there would never again be a leader who whould want to have his own way. Such leaders should realize that there would be no chance for them to emerge. The United Nations should adopt resolutions denying their attempt, and the nations of the international community should work together taking concerted actions. The framework of peace can be maintained through member nations fulfilling their responsibilities. And it is my understanding that the recent case serves as practical proof of my belief.

[Sakurai] The war has ended. Now, I would like to ask you a question regarding Japan's actual postwar measures. What are Japan's concrete cooperation measures for economic reconstruction?

[Kaifu] Did you say economic reconstruction? This is an area with wide range. What I would like to say first is that Kuwait is a nation which has a considerable amount of assets abroad. However, the current situation in Kuwait is very severe and we will provide them emergency aid on humanitarian grounds. For example, Japan will begin providing medical supplies to Kuwait. Regarding the region's economic reconstruction, however, we will respect the intentions of nations concerned first. While respecting initiatives of the Gulf nations, we will study what kind of cooperation Japan can offer. I think that this is an issue we have to deal with while respecting the intentions of the Gulf nations. We will actively provide cooperation, however, if there is anything we can do to help. I am sure there are various things we can do, like technological cooperation.

[Sakurai] What about Iraq?

[Kaifu] It seems that an unstable situation still continues in Iraq. I strongly hope Iraq will peacefully settle the problems as soon as possible and become a nation which can be accepted by the international society. This is an issue the Iraqi people have to decide by themselves. We are hoping, however, for Iraq's return to the international society.

[Yamamoto] Do you think that full-scale support will not be provided to Iraq as long as President Saddam Husayn remains in power?

[Kaifu] I think that people, other than Iraqis, should refrain from talking about whether or not the Husayn regime will continue. In this regard, the United States is drawing a clear line and is dealing with the situation accordingly. Iraq and Japan had economic exchanges for a long time. As a matter of fact, Japan was providing economic and technological cooperation to Iraq, and both countries had Y [yen] 700 billion in debts and credits, when I met with Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan in Jordan. I even explained to him that we will study the reconstruction of economic relations if Iraq returns to the international society, by accepting the demands of the international community on the basis of principle and fundamental rules. I told him it would be beneficial to the Iraqi people. I hope that the Iraqi people will construct a peaceful and democratic Iraq as soon as possible.

[Sakurai] Some people are expressing the concern that Japanese industries may try again to seek business opportunities under the pretext of reconstruction. Can you comment on this?

[Kaifu] We are aware that there is such criticism in Europe and the United States, or in the U.S. Congress. We will strictly respect other countries positions. We will provide active cooperation if we are asked to provide assistance and if we have the technology and measures to respond to such a request. Criticisms, similar to what you have just mentioned, eventually come to us if we try to seek business opportunities without giving consideration to others. I think that people in the industries understand and that they will deal with the situation accordingly.

[Yamamoto] We need prudent measures.

[Kaifu] Yes, we do.

Regarding the ODA [Official Development Assistance], I think that as a nation respecting democracy and freedom, Japan should provide assistance to be used for promoting democracy and freedom at a time when the world is cherishing these as invariable principles. On the buildup of military strength, I will discuss this more later, but I think that many nations in the world must reflect upon themselves although Japan does not need to do so. In that sense, there would be difficult problems in providing the ODA. However, I think that Japan should handle the ODA, taking those problems into account.

[Yamamoto] Do you mean that the ODA needs to be reviewed in the future?

[Kaifu] Yes, you are right.

[Yamamoto] My question concerns the $9 billion. There are views among some people that since the cease-fire came before the Diet's approval of the financial contribution, the money can be used for reconstruction in the region. Do you still think the money should be used to meet costs of the multinational forces?

[Kaifu] Sufficient debate has been made on the use of the money at Diet sessions. The $9 billion has been committed to the nations concerned which worked to secure peace and stablility in the region. Twenty-eight nations, including the United States, sent their troops to the Gulf region despite their domestic economic situations. Franky speaking, those nations, braving the anticipated loss of their youths, decided and acted in response to the international community's need to secure peace and stability in the Gulf region. Japan is a nation, however, which has a basic policy of not using force to settle international conflicts. Therefore, it is necessary for Japan to strive to make those nations understand this policy. Japan needs to adopt the attitude of standing with the side fighting to safeguard the justice of the international community. It also needs to make clear its political position of not tolerating any aggression. With the intent of not only talking but taking action, Japan has decided to provide $9 billion. Although you mentioned very often the cease-fire, Japan has not decided to provide the $9 billion to support only the use of force aimed at liberating Kuwait by eliminating aggression. As I mentioned earlier, Japan has decided to provide the $9 billion for the sake of peace and stability in the region. Therefore, the money should be used for various post-war reconstruction projects. As you mentioned a while ago, there was a oil spill, wasn't there?

[Sakurai] Yes.

[Kaifu] I watched a scene of miserable birds on the NHK news. That was just part of the unfathomable damage to the global environment. To tackle this problem, Japan should do what it can. Therefore, Japan has sent oil fences. Japan also has provided technical information since it constructed nearly half of the seawater desalination facilities there. Japan has recently sent a team to survey the contamination. Japan should make more and more efforts for that purpose if necessary.

[Sakurai] In that sense, the region faces environmental problems. Some take the view that the U.S. forces will stay in the Middle East. In this case, that the U.S. forces continuously stay in the region, and Japan is asked to make additional economic contributions, what do you think?

[Kaifu] President Bush cannot pull all of the U.S. troops out of the region right now because Iraq is in a state of confusion. However, their pullout has already begun. I do not think that the United States intends to deploy its troops there indefinately. Various things, including the respect of initiatives to be taken by the eight Gulf nations, can be considered. Since the $9 billion is to be used for the restoration of peace in the Gulf region, we will ask the United States to use the $9 billion to meet costs incurred in the temporary presence or pullout of its troops. I am not thinking of anything other this.

[Yamamoto] Concerning the reconstruction work, it has been reported that various nations, with the United States and others taking the leading role, have already launched active summit diplomacy. As for Japan, the situation is that cabinet members are currently tied down to the Diet sessions. Concern has been voiced, however, that Japan seems to have somewhat fallen behind as compared with the actions taken by other nations. What is your view on this point?

[Kaifu] Well, as far as reconstruction work in the Gulf area is concerned, as I have just mentioned, it is true that there may be some factors that will make one feel that Japan has fallen behind in competing with other nations. However, as I have just mentioned, on the contrary, it can be regarded that Japan is actually dealing with this issue with great caution so as to do what will make those concerned nations, as well as our counterparts, satisfied.

As for long-term issues, as you have just mentioned, we are currently in the midst of the Diet sessions, and can hardly fly to other nations. However, I myself have talked with President Bush about various issues over the phone on five occasions since New Year's Day, and I have also received phone calls from President Gorbachev.

In some sense, we have to exchange views among the top leaders and inform each other of our intentions. Moreover, while taking Diet sessions into account, I plan to send Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to the United States as soon as Secretary James Baker comes back from the Gulf region to engage in consultations on future issues. We know that President Bush is also waiting for this visit. Thus, we are doing whatever can be done at various levels.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Prime Minister, what about your own plans for a visit to the United States?

[Kaifu] This time, it is President Bush who has expressed his intention of visiting Japan. We made this promise when we met at the last summit talks. And during our phone conversations, we talked about the visit. However, due to various circumstances, it has been decided that further arrangements still have to be made on the visit as soon as possible. In this connection, we expect President Bush to soon pay a visit to Japan. Since the foreign minister will pay a visit this month, further consultations on this issue will be made then. We will inform him of all possibilites. And since Japanese-U.S. relations are of great importance, I intend to take advantage of every opportunity to promote mutual understanding.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Prime Minister, do you think that President Bush's visit to Japan will come first?

[Kaifu] Well, I am not sure about his current schedule because he must be very busy at this moment. He is not only taking the lead in restoring peace in the Gulf region, but is also playing various central roles in promoting stability in the area. Since it is hard to say how much progress has to be made in these efforts before he can decide on visiting Japan, we, for our part, cannot make any predictions or speculations. However, we hope that he can visit here as soon as possible. President Bush informed me of his intention over the phone the other day. In this connection, please wait and see for developments in the future.

[Yamamoto] Now, my next question concerns our contributions in the field of personnel. There are issues regarding our contributions to the UN peacekeeping operations. An accord has been reached among the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] on creating an organization different from the Self-Defense Forces [SDF]. Do you plan, basically speaking, to deal with this issue within this framework?

[Kaifu] Frankly speaking, the UN cooperation bill which we submitted to the last Diet session was rejected after deliberations. Then, the three parties, namely the LDP, the Komeito, and the DSP, reached an accord that, despite rejection of the previous government-proposed bill, it will be essential to work out new measures for making contributions in promoting cooperation with the international community. Based on this accord, the government is now striving to work out concrete programs.

It would not be good for us to inform the international community that there is nothing that Japan can do. And as I have just mentioned, now that many countries in the world have taken action in safeguarding the noble cause of justice of the international community by sacrificing not only funds but also valuable lives, we should do our best to strengthen the functions of the United Nations. If any actions should be taken in accordance with the UN resolutions, Japan for its part must fulfill its responsibility as a member of the United Nations, and take into consideration how to safeguard the noble cause of justice for the international community. In this connection, we are now making efforts to work out new and concrete programs.

[Yamamoto] You have just said that you are making efforts. It seems that the extend of Japan's cooperation will be limited if you were to think on the basis of the principle of the three-party agreement. For example, there is concern as to whether or not the cooperation in monitoring elections or logistic support in monitoring a cease-fire will be assessed internationally. There is also an opinion in the Liberal Democratic Party saying that we have to think about the usage of the Self-Defense Forces. Can you explain your views on that?

[Kaifu] That is the issue people assess differently. International assessment on us will be null if we keep saying that we cannot do anything because the UN peace cooperation bill, which we proposed last time, was eventually rejected at the Diet. Thus, while listening to various opinions of the opposition parties, we have to .... [changing thoughts] I think this is the democratic parliamentarism. Nothing has been decided yet, however, as to what we can do. I think that we have to decide what we can do. What Japan must not do is threaten other countries by force or dispatch armed troops abroad for the purpose of exercising military force. We cannot dispatch troops abroad. However, we need to further discuss with the opposition parties as to what is the extent of our cooperation in other UN peacekeeping operations while still obtaining a consensus from the people. The government has a definite plan. I hope that discussions and review of the plan will be made by taking into account the fact that the government has a definite plan. Now that we are planning to make another proposal, the government wants to form an organization or a system which can make personnel contributions. When we do that, I want the people to know that Japan is a country which indeed joins international activities with self-awareness as a member of the international society. Today, we are enjoying a high-level affluent life style in the arena of world peace and the stable world order. Regarding the safeguarding of this world peace and order, I hope that the people will have wide ranging discussions and approve Japan's allowable extent of international cooperation although there will be a limit to it. Japan is currently facing a very critical situation. The international community will have to decide how to accept Japan.

[Sakurai] Speaking of world peace and order, I think the Arab and Palestinian problem will become a very large issue in the future. President Bush said the he would actively wrestle with the issue. How is Japan going to deal with this issue in the future? As I have stated earlier, many people criticized Japan saying that Japan lacked diplomatic posture, or should I say philosophy and doctrine. How is Japan going to deal with the Palestinian issue in the future?

[Kaifu] Regarding the Palestinian issue, Japan expressed our opinions when the United Nations approved resolutions No. 242 and No. 338 or at the time of the so-called third and fourth stages of the Middle East war. We advocated that Israel should withdraw from the occupied territories, but, in return, Arab nations should approve Israel's right to exist or the existence of an Israeli nation. Permanent peace in that region should be established in the spirit of these conditions. The UN resolutions touched on the Palestinian people's fundamental right to establish their own country. At that time and even long ago, Japan has remained constant on its basic stance, philosophy, and doctrine. Moreover, Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, visited Japan after I became chief of this official residence. We never invited the PLO to visit Japan before. We informed him that Japan, if we were to discuss the issue of a Palestinian nation, could not invite a leader who wanted to change the world by force or who sought significance of his existence by forcefully breaking through the current existing order as a government guest. We asked him if he accepted these conditions. He said he would accept them. At the same time, we asked him to abandon the concept of rejecting the existence of Israel or smashing Israel. We also told him that he had to study the possibility of peaceful coexistence with Israel so that the Palestinian issue would be solved naturally. Chairman 'Arafat accepted these two conditons. Since he said that he and his people would change in that direction, we held talks with him. From this viewpoint, President Bush said at the United Nations that an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait was a new turn of the situation and it would provide an opportunity of holding various discussions regarding the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian issues. I heard him saying that in New York. Japan has been holding such a way of thinking for some time. We never know under what circumstances Japan will be able to cooperate so we will continue to attend international conferences. I am planning to continuously advocate our opinions in accordance with the fundamental line that Japan has so far maintained.

[Yamamoto] In connection with the security of the Middle East, the ban on the exports of arms has come into the focus. I think that since Japan has never been engaged in exporting weapons, it is in a favorable position in the international community to speak out against exporting weapons. Do you have any concrete measures in mind?

[Kaifu] Regarding the issue of exporting weapons, it is necessary to further clarify and make public the exports of conventional weapons. There were two things which deeply concerned me during the Gulf war. One was biochemical weapons. Iraq has a history of using them and presently has them. If that country uses them, the aspect of the conflict will change. Another thing is the Scud missiles. The Iraqis fired about 40 Scud missiles at Israel. Israel exercised restraint, however, and did not retaliate. I think that Israel is a nation which strikes back when attacked. That country's restraint prevented the aspect of the war from changing. At that time, I highly appraised Israel's restraint. The Iraqis were able to fire Scud missiles at Israel because of the nation which supplied them. To think of who supplied such weapons, such a supply should be halted in the future. Japan will host an international conference on controlling the exports of missile- related technology in Tokyo beginning 18 March. We plan to call upon participants from all over the world to ban the exports of such missiles. We will also call upon them to seriously think of weapon exports in retrospect of the latest conflict in the Middle East. Japan, as the host nation of the conference, will take the initiative in raising this issue.

[Yamamoto] Will Japan raise this issue?

[Kaifu] Yes, Japan will raise the issue, because it will host the conference for that purpose in Tokyo. There is another thing i would like to mention. Not only missiles, but arms comtrol and disarmament will also become major global issues. Japan adopts a three-principle policy banning the export of weapons. Therefore, Japan is in a position to speak out against the export of weapons. In May, Japan will convene an international conference on disarmament and arms control. During the conference, Japan will ask the participants to discuss what measures should be taken to prevent a recurrence of the latest conflict from the standpoint of reflection. I think all people of the world share the same view concerning this matter. During the conference, Japan will call upon intellectuals to discuss what measures should be taken to prevent the proliferation of biochemical and nuclear weapons, and the eventual abolition of them.

[Yamamoto] During the past seven months of the Gulf crisis, the government's capability of handling the crisis has been questioned. Voices have been heard saying the government failed to effectively handle the crisis. How do you plan to improve the crisis management system?

[Kaifu] Regarding crisis management, I think that we must not have the feeling that it is good only if there is no crisis. To be sure, I have heard that the government reacted too late or reacted excessively. However, we have undergone various experiences and reflections since the 2 August invasion. One hour after hearing reports on the start of the UN-approved use of force, we called the National Security Council. We also held a meeting of the Gulf Countermeasure Headquarters to decide necessary matters along with a cabinet meeting to decide on the prime minister's statement and Japan's political position on the Gulf war. These were released to the public. We later held, and very often, meetings of the Gulf Countermeasure Headquarters and the National Security Council. Thus, we made every effort possible to work out responsive measures to the war. I think the government should cope with future events by consulting people from all walks of life.

[Yamamoto] I would like to ask you some brief questions regarding Japanese-U.S. relations. It seems that there is still criticism of the measures taken by Japan at such organs as the U.S. Congress. It is predicted that the United States will perhaps make stronger demands in such various fields as the liberalization of the Japanese market or the post-war reconstruction work in the future. What do you think of the future relations between Japan and the United States?

[Kaifu] In a broader sense, the future Japanese-U.S. relations, as well as Japanese-U.S. relations up to this date, constitute the most important bilateral relations. As has often been mentioned, the United States constitutes the most important axis of Japanese diplomacy while our diplomacy with the Asian nations constitutes another supporting axis. And yet, as you have just mentioned, many criticisms have been voiced in the United States concerning Japanese-U.S. relations. For example, let us recall the situation of last August. Too late and too little were then repeated just as a password. When summit talks were held, it was also said too late and too little.

As far as Japan is concerned, however, Japan has done its utmost and offered as much as possible. If it were too little, nobody has told us as to what would have been the appropriate ceiling. Since I have good friends in the U.S. Congress, I requested them to find this out for us. Japan was the first nation to have made its decision to supply funds, wasn't it? We made our decision before the European Community made its decision.

Furthermore, if the Kuwaiti assets were not frozen, the defeated Kuwait would have the risk of losing its assets overseas. And it was Japan that made the decision on freezing the Kuwaiti assets on the following day. Among the various nations in the world, Japan was the first to take various measures. At any rate, we had to grind our teeth in regret because it seems that no appropriate evaluation was made on the measures that we had taken. As for the recent decison on supplying the $9 billion aid, I think Japan made its decision much earlier than Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, the nations that are directly involved.

Now, Germany has announced its plan for supplying aid. However, the announcement was made ten days later than our decision. It is not a good idea to speak ill of other nations, but since we cannot make ourselves understood without pointing out some comparison, I hope U.S. congressmen take a good look at these facts. Since we hope that they will not mention those views when they come to understand the facts, we would like, first of all, to be allowed to state that we have done our best.

At the same time, we have also given our best efforts at the Structural Impediments Initiative [SII] talks to correct the imbalance in trade between Japan and United States. As we have promised, we have made shifts in various policies. And in order to improve our relations with the United States, we have increased our imports by a large margin during the past three years. We have increased our imports from various nations in the world by $84 billion in just three years. When these facts are taken into consideration, we know that we will have to make further efforts. We hope that our efforts, however, will be appraised correctly and that our position and efforts are recognized.

[Yamamoto] You mean it is not correct to say too little or too late.

[Kaifu] It is not correct to say that. The fact is we have been doing what can be done as soon as possible.

[Sakurai] Next to our relations with the United States, I would like to ask you about our relations with the Soviet Union. According to today's news, Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh is scheduled to visit Japan in late March to make preparations. And at long last, President Gorbachev will be visiting Japan in mid-April, about a month from now. Mr. Prime Minister, what is your basic approach toward improving the relations between Japan and the Soviet Union?

[Kaifu] Since Japan and the Soviet Union are neighboring nations, ...

[Sakurai, interrupting] Yes, that's right.

[Kaifu continues] I think our two nations should establish a relationship based on genuine friendship and trust. And since this will be the first visit to Japan by the Soviet president since the end of the war, I would like to use this opportunity as a breakthrough for drastically and qualitatively improving our relations. Let me explain why I feel so.

Not long ago, I attended summit talks. The East-West confrontation has come to an end; East and West Germany have been reunified; the concept about detente has been overcome; and the Berlin wall has been demolished. All these changes have taken place in Europe. Since such changes have taken place in Europe, on the western part of the Eurasian continent, the East-West confrontation has also been brought to an end here in the Asian-Pacific region so as to ensure peace and stability.

However, to be frank, there still remains the unsettled territorial issue between Japan and the Soviet Union. Genuine and friendly relations can be started through the settlement of this issue and the conclusion of a peace treaty. Our first hope is that his visit will serve as a breakthrough. At the same time, historically speaking, President Gorbachev has started his perestroyka policy in the Soviet Union now despite the fact that there are some serious problems because of some twists and turns. And yet, the overall trend is to make perestroyka a success. I have confidence in the correct orientation that has been taken, and I hope that they will succeed somehow or other. Our two nations should follow the principle of expanded equilibrium, and with each side making concessions as well as carrying on negotiations and promoting cooperation, we hope to improve our bilateral relations in a drastic way. We cannot agree to an unprincipled separation of political concerns from economic interests but our two nations should make concessions to each other so as to build up a relationship of trust.

Whether or not there will be a breakthrough, I strongly hope that President Gorbachev will make his courageous decision during his upcoming visit to Japan in April, and I am convinced that it will conform to the interests of the Asian-Pacific region and the world as well.

[Yamamoto] I think that it is necessary to make progress on the territorial issue for Japanese-Soviet cooperation. As you said, President Gorbachev is facing a very difficult time. Therefore, the people doubt if this major issue could be resolved. What do you think the prospects are of resolving the territorial issue?

[Kaifu] Yes, that is a difficult issue. I think that the people are concerned about it. To explain why perestroyka is in a state of worry, the domestic economic situation in the Soviet Union is in bad shape. Therefore, Japan and other nations are providing humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union. Last year, four Soviet economic missions came to Japan. They frankly told me that the Soviet Union is working to revitalize its economy and to move toward democracy and freedom after abolishing the one-party dictatorship by the Communist Party. Soviet intellectuals seriously think that modeling the Soviet Union after Japan is a shortcut to modernization. Therefore, four missions came to Japan. Japan, at the request of the Soviet Union, also sent experts to the Soviet Union on three occassions. Thus, Japan is cooperating with the Soviet Union. Intellectual and personnel exchanges are rapidly expanding between the two countries. In the field of space exploration, a joint Japanese-Soviet satellite flight was conducted. On the earth, Japanese doctors treated Soviet children's burns in Niigata City and Sapporo City. Thus, a wide range of personnel exchanges between the two countries are under way. I think Japan has technology and know-how which can be helpful to promoting the economic reform in the Soviet Union. For this reason, the Soviets intend to learn from Japan.

Although the two countries are facing difficult situations, I think the leaders of the two countries should make a decision on the territorial issue. I also think that the holding of summit talks between the leaders will be the best historical juncture to resolving the issue. I intend to drastically improve Japanese- Soviet relations, while obtaining the understanding and support of the people. I also intend to ask President Gorbachev to make a wise decision on the issue.

[Yamamoto] I agree with what you said. However, there are views among the people that it is questionable to make a huge investment in the Soviet Union through economic cooperation in view of the present situation in the Soviet Union. What do you think of this?

[Kaifu] If relations between Japan and its neighbor are improved and genuine peace and prosperity come to the Asian and Pacific region, with Japan making contributions to these, I think that we should start financial and economic cooperation with the Soviet Union after obtaining the understanding of the people. Of the world GNP of $20 trillion, the United States and the EC share $5 trillion respectively while Japan alone shares $3 trillion. In other words, Japan shares 15 percent of the world's GNP. In view of this position, Japan should make increased efforts for the prosperity and stability of the world. The East-West cold war relations came to an end because of the prevailing belief that the human prefers a political system which can make them free, happy, and affluent. We have found a great difference between democracy- freedom and Communism-controlled economy in Berlin after the 28 years since they were imposed in the city where walls were built. No matter what is said, a conclusion has been reached that no one wants these walls and this has brought peace and stability. Although Japan will not stick to the policy of separating politics from economics in relations with its neighbor, I hope that the issue will be resolved by a wise decision so that Japan can start economic cooperation with its neighbor. Will this not bring happiness to each?

[Sakurai] Mr. Prime Minister, as you have just mentioned, various domestic problems still exist in the Soviet Union. Among them, there is one that concerns, shall I say, the future of the Gorbachev administration. You have just said that you have confidence. What is your view concerning this point?

[Kaifu] Frankly speaking, I would like to point out that there should be more democratic and peaceful ways to settle domestic problems. I am very much concerned with those measures of resorting to force to settle problems connected with the relationship among various republics. Because it will lead to an unpleasant afterstate, I don't think it is a good way.

Frankly speaking, another problem concerns the shortage of such goods as foodstuffs on the market for the general public. Meanwhile, long lines of consumers are seen at the free market where commodities are sold at very high prices. Such a situation can be eliminated if the principles of a market-oriented economy are honestly accepted in order to rebuild its economy from the base since the Soviet Union is rich in resources and in materials. In particular, we have the information that the Soviet Union reaped a bumper harvest last year.

In this connection, if Japan can provide greater cooperation in the process of distribution, I think it will lead to success in perestroyka. Whether it is in the Soviet Union or in Japan the political objective that should be attained is just very simple. The nation must enjoy peace and its people should be able to enjoy an affluent life. Isn't that right? Therefore, I think it is necessary for the Soviet people to understand that if they would support President Gorbachev so as to make perestroyka a success, it is beyond any doubt that things would develop in a correct orientation.

There are still many problems at present. However, Japan would, from now on, like to provide both technical and intellectual cooperation so that more of such information could be distributed and so that the Soviet economy can be established with a strong foothold.

[Sakurai] Well, it seems that we have come to the last question. I am sorry but we don't have much time left to talk about an important issue now. [Both Kaifu and Sakurai begin laughing]

Mr. Prime Minister, you have persistently stated that somehow or other, you will stake the cabinet's destiny on the promotion of political reforms. Since the outbreak of the war last summer, however, it seems to me that not much progress has been made in the deliberations on this issue. Is it be possible that the related bill will be submitted to the current Diet session?

[Kaifu] As you have just mentioned, the political reform was the homework assigned to the cabinet at the start of this administration. It was then that the LDP had to make its rise from the very bottom. Since we decided to carry out this task, we set up the headquarters for reforms and worked out the outline for political reform. And through efforts made by concerned party members, the outline was discussed and adopted as the party resolution late last year. We have to carry out this resolution. And it is our people's demand that reforms should be carried out so that politics can be pursued in a fresh way. We take the people's voice partly as reprimand and partly as encouragement. In this connection, we will have to deal with the political reform in real earnest.

[Yamamoto] Will the concerned bill be submitted to the current Diet session?

[Kaifu] Various procedures are still under way within the party now. And since we have received recommendations from the Advisory Council, the government for its part is now making analysis and studying measures to be taken. And I myself has been consulting with senior officials of our party now and then so as to attain an intraparty consensus. Since we have to reach an accord between the ruling and opposition parties at one breath during the Diet session, I feel that what is more important is the content not the timing of the submission. And because we feel that what is more important is the content, efforts are now being made to work out a bill with good content as soon as possible.

[Yamamoto] You mean that the bill will be worked out as soon as possible.

[Kaifu] Yes, that is correct.

[Yamamoto, Sakurai] Thank you very much for this interview today.

[Kaifu] Thank you.

Money Deposited Into Gulf Peace Fund

OW1303094991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0935 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—Japan transferred 1.17 trillion yen (about 8.6 billion dollars) to the Gulf Peace Fund on Wednesday for disbursement to countries that helped free Kuwait from Iraq control, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said.

The sum fell short of the 9 billion dollars pledged in January due to the weakening of the yen since the end of the Persian Gulf war.

"Our national interests are dependent on restoration of peace and stability in the Persian Gulf," Sakamoto told a news conference.

"We believe that we should continue to make active contributions to international efforts to restore peace and stability in this region," he said.

Sakamoto said the disbursement of the money would be decided by the fund's administration committee in the "not too distant future," taking into consideration requests from prospective recipients.

He indicated that money may be provided for reconstruction if there are such requests, but said Japan planned to restrict its use to nonmilitary purposes such as food, transport, and medicine.

The committee consists of the Japanese ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the secretary general of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

The United States has indicated it expects to receive the entire sum, and has included the 9 billion dollars in a provisional budget for covering war costs. Japan has also said a major part of the contribution is expected to be delivered to the U.S.

Foreign Ministry officials say the aid is denominated in yen and 9 billion dollars was calculated to equal 1.17 trillion yen when the dollar was worth 130 yen. The dollar closed at 136.55 yen on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange market Wednesday.

The Japanese Government has obtained Washington's understanding on the calculation, officials said.

The aid was pledged in a late January meeting between Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady in New York.

Jordan, Libya, Bangladesh Travel Warnings Lifted

OW1303114091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—The government on Wednesday withdrew travel warnings to Japanese citizens wishing to visit Jordan, Libya, and Bangladesh, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The government has so far lifted its travel advisories to several Middle East nations in response to the Gulf war ceasefire.

The officials said the government lifted its travel advisory to Bangladesh after the completion of the country's parliamentary elections late last month.

However, travel advisories and evacuation recommendations remain effective for Iraq and Kuwait, and cautions are still valid for Egypt, Yemen, Mauritania, Algeria, and Nigeria, they said.

Oil Firms See OPEC Production Cut 'Predictable'

OW1303040691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—Japan's oil industry viewed the agreement by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to cut production as predictable, and industry sources said Wednesday that markets would be little affected by the move.

An official of Nippon Oil Co. said, "The OPEC decision came exactly as we had anticipated."

OPEC oil ministers agreed Tuesday to slash production in the second quarter of this year by some one million barrels per day to 22.3 million barrels from the current level of 23.4 million.

The current level of output would have caused a sizable slump in oil prices, since it far surpasses the estimated demand for 21 million barrels per day of OPEC oil in the second quarter.

That prospect has driven down oil futures prices.

Koichi Hasegawa, general manager of the Overseas Research Department of the Petroleum Association of Japan, said, "OPEC managed to put up a united front—albeit a feeble one—in hopes of supporting the prices."

An official of Toa Nenryo Kogyo K.K. said the agreement will help balance supply and demand on the world oil market.

"The crude price will probably resist falling below the 15 dollars per barrel level as a result of the accord," the official said.

Hasegawa said, "The OPEC agreement demonstrated that the organization is not in disarray. It also reflected the rising clout of Saudi Arabia within OPEC."

An official of the Natural Resources and Energy Agency said the OPEC agreement will have little impact on the world crude market.

"A production cut of around one million barrels per day has already been digested by the market. There won't be any sharp price upswing," the official said.

He said, "OPEC apparently hopes to boost the crude price to around 21 dollars per barrel."

"But the easy supply-demand balance in the second quarter will put a cap on upward pressures on prices," he predicted.

DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Remarks on Compensation

OW1303084391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—A high ranking North Korean official indicated Wednesday that Pyongyang may take a flexible stand on its demand for compensation from Japan, the biggest sticking point in the normalization of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Chon In-chol, North Korea's vice foreign minister, said in an interview with Japanese news organizations Pyongyang would not mind how Japan pays compensation for its colonial rule during 1910-1945.

"We are using the term compensation in a broad sense," said Chon, who headed the North Korean delegation to Tokyo for the second round of official negotiations with Japan to normalize bilateral ties. The two-day talks ended Tuesday.

Japan and North Korea "share the same position that compensation, whatever its form, should be paid for human and material damages caused to Koreans during Japan's colonial period," Chon said.

Since the first bilateral talks in Pyongyang in late January, North Korea has been demanding that Japan also pay war reparations and admit its responsibility for property losses during its rule.

But Tokyo has rejected the demand on grounds that the two countries were not at war during the period.

Looking back on the previous two rounds of talks, Chon said the two countries were able to clarify each other's standpoints and views, and laid the groundwork for mutual agreement in the next round.

"I have an optimistic view that we can achieve our goal (of normalization)," he said.

As for the verification of North Korea's nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Chon reiterated Pyongyang's position that South Korea should also be subjected to IAEA inspection to determine whether it has nuclear weapons.

Chon also said Pyongyang is considering allowing Japanese women married to North Koreans to visit their native country under special conditions, even before normalization, but stated it cannot be achieved before the end of the year.

The vice foreign minister is due to return to Pyongyang on Thursday.

Remarks on Nuclear Inspections

OW1303113791 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1218 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Interview with Chon In-chol, DPRK vice foreign minister and head of a DPRK government delegation to Japan-North Korean normalization talks in Tokyo, by Hatsuhisa Takashima in Tokyo; date not given; from the "NHK News 21" program—recorded; questions are in Japanese, while responses are in Korean with Japanese translation provided by subtitles; responses translated from the Korean]

[Text] [Takashima] It appears that Japan and North Korea cannot agree on basic issues, the postwar compensation and nuclear inspection issues which Japan has brought up, for instance. Can these differences be resolved?

[Chon] Because the talks are still in their initial stages, I think it is natural, to a certain extent, that there be differences of opinion between the two sides. Therefore, if we make joint efforts to narrow down these differences of opinion and to find points in common and points of agreement, I think that we can attain the normalization of diplomatic relations to which we both aspire.

[Takahima] Will it be impossible for North Korea to make concessions on the issue of nuclear inspections?

[Chon] As I stated during my news conference yesterday, the Japanese side originally proposed that Korean-Japanese talks be held without preconditions. But because this issue has now been raised as a precondition, it has emerged as a difference of opinion. Regarding our position, we are all prepared to sign the nuclear inspection agreement at any time, but the issue remains that the United States should remove the nuclear threat against us before we sign.

It is said that everyone feels threatened by and concerned with nuclear weapons, which we do not even manufacture anymore. We wonder why they are not concerned about the 1,000 nuclear weapons deployed in

South Korea. We maintain that, should nuclear inspections be conducted, they should also be conducted on the U.S. forces' nuclear bases in South Korea.

[Takashima] Satellite photos reportedly show there is what appears to be a facility for nuclear development at a place not so far from Pyongyang. Are you saying that this is not a facility for making nuclear weapons or for some activity related to nuclear arms?

[Chon] Of course we are not developing nuclear armaments. We have a small experimental reactor, a small one. [smiles] We do not have anything else.

[Takashima] I have one more question, about the issue of claims against Japan, or, from the North Korean perspective, reparations. In terms of actual economic cooperation, how much money you are expecting from Japan for economic cooperation?

[Chon] Currently we are preparing basic data on what personnel and material damages we suffered at that time. But we still have no intention of determining the amount or how much it should be set at. [smiles] We only hope that Japan will deal with this issue with sincerity in order to liquidate the past cleanly.

[Takashima] Turning to prospects for the talks, it is our understanding that the North Korean side wants to bring the talks to a settlement as early as possible. When do you think that diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea can be normalized?

[Chon] Both the Korean and Japanese sides have boarded the same train bound for the same destination, the normalization of diplomatic relations. This train may not run as fast as the Japanese bullet train Shinkansen, but it runs as steadily as a slow train. I think it will eventually reach its destination. This is my view. Even if it may be a slow train, it will run and reach its destination in the end. [smiles]

Envoy to U.S. Discusses Kaifu, Bush Visits

OW1303005591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0033 GMT 13 Mar 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, March 12 KYODO—Senior Japanese and United States officials met Tuesday to discuss the timing of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's trip to Washington and President George Bush's official visit to Tokyo sometime this year.

Japanese Ambassador Ryohei Murata and Bush's National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft talked about the Japan-U.S. summit schedule, officials said.

A senior Japanese diplomat said Kaifu is likely to travel to the U.S. sometime this spring if Bush's trip to Tokyo is delayed until later in the year.

"We are awaiting a response from the White House as to whether the President can come to Japan at an early date," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Persian Gulf War has forced the postponement of Bush's Japan trip, which had been tentatively scheduled for February or March.

The diplomat said the U.S. response may come before Bush leaves Wednesday for Canada, Martinique, and Bermuda for talks with leaders of Canada, France, and Britain, respectively.

A highly-placed diplomatic source said German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will visit the U.S. in the near future for talks with Bush, leaving the Japanese and Italian leaders as the only heads of government of members of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations not to have met Bush since the end of the Gulf War.

U.S. officials maintain that Bush has expressed a desire to pay an official visit to Japan at an appropriate time later this year.

A senior U.S. official said the U.S. Government is looking at the second half of this year as a target date for a presidential trip.

He noted that Bush has put off his February trip to Moscow until an unspecified date in the first half of this year.

The U.S. had originally anticipated a Bush trip to Japan ahead of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's historic visit to Tokyo in mid- April.

Officials said Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Secretary of State James Baker will discuss meetings of leaders of the two countries during Nakayama's trip to Washington next week.

North Korea

South's Refusal To Convey Letters Denounced

SK1203152891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement to the press today denouncing the South Korean Red Cross which, under an unjustifiable pretext, refused recently our side's request to convey letters of the chairmen of social organizations of the North to the acting chairman of the "National Council of Trade Unions" [Chonnoryon] and chairmen of the "National Council of Peasants Associations [Chonnong]," the "National Council of Student Representatives" [Chondaehyop] and the "National Council of Representatives of Youth Organizations" [Chonchonghyop] of South Korea.

The behavior of the South Korean Red Cross is an unpardonable, very unreasonable act in view of the usage and the mission and tasks of the Red Cross organizations of both sides to restore the severed blood ties of the nation and contribute to national unity and reunification, the spokesman said, and continued:

To our surprise, the South Korean Red Cross, without reading or hearing about the letters, refused to convey them, alleging that the letters "may cause unnecessary, side effects" and "may give rise to political controversy."

The South Korean Red Cross side refused to convey the letters to the above-mentioned organisations under the absurd pretext contrary to reason. This is a criminal act singing duet with the South Korean authorities in their unjustifiable moves to block independent contacts and dialogues between people of the North and the South, claiming "unified channel of dialogue."

We cannot but deplore that the South Korean Red Cross, while advocating humanitarianism, is openly following the South Korean authorities, siding with them in seeking confrontation between fellow countrymen and permanent division of the country, discarding even such basic principles of the International Red Cross as the principles of political neutrality, independence and impartiality.

To make the 1990s a decade of reunification is the unanimous will of the whole nation and an unbreakable and unshakable will.

No matter how hard a few separatists may try to build a high wall of division and bar the meeting between people of the North and the South, they cannot block the road of contact and dialogue between the people of various strata in the two parts who desire peace and reunification of the country.

We hope that the South Korean Red Cross will not take a road of treachery to the nation in league with a few rulers of South Korea seeking confrontation, war and division, but honestly turn to the position of humanitarianism and reunification and keep step with all the pro-reunification democratic forces in this land which call for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification.

More on Letters Delivery Issue

SK1303104991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 13 Mar 91

["Inhumanitarian and Unfaithful Act of South Korean Red Cross Condemned"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The chairmen of the Central Committees [C.C.] of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) and the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea (UAWPK) and of the Korean Students Committee (KSC) met with a KCNA reporter Wednesday and accused the South Korean Red Cross of refusing to take over their letters proposing nongovernmental dialogue, branding it as an inhumanitarian act contrary to the past usage according to which it had taken charge of all the correspondence and liaison between the North and the South and as a treacherous act to please the forces which seek a permanent division of the country.

Won Tong-ku, chairman of the C.C., the GFTUK, said:

The South Korean authorities who brought the hard-won North-South high-level talks to a rupture with their frantic war racket are now standing in the way of contacts and dialogues between civilians. By doing so they stripped themselves naked as the heinous enemy of reunification and obstinate splittists who do not want any dialogue for reunification between the North and the South but seek only a permanent division of the country.

Pak Su-tong, chairman of the C.C., the UAWPK, said he keenly felt that the South Korean authorities' "unified channel of dialogue" formula is an anti-national, anti-reunification scheme to monopolize the independent dialogue and exchange between the peoples of all walks of life in the North and the South and abuse them for their separatist purpose.

Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Korean Students Committee, stressed: Though the South Korean authorities again dropped the checkbar of bayonet on the road of meeting between our students, the students in the North and the South will never step back from this meeting on our way to reunification.

The chairmen called upon all the workers, peasants, youth and students and other people of all walks of life in the North and the South to turn out more courageously in the struggle for peace in the country and its peaceful reunification by concerted efforts.

U.S., South Aerial Exercises Conducted 11 Mar

SK1303052091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets on March 11 staged twice the joint aerial exercises for striking ground targets in the North in the skies above Oeyon, Tokjok and Anmyon Islets and Chongju and Kunwi areas of South Korea with the mobilization of more than 130 warplanes including several formations of fighter-bombers and assault planes based in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific and fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes of the U.S. forces present in South Korea and the puppet army, according to military sources.

On the same day, they held a ground attack exercise of infantry and motorized units in the Pochon area with the support of formations of assault planes from the U.S. mainland. In separate development, the South Korean puppets staged a day-and-night parachuting exercise simulating a surprise attack and infiltration into the depth of the North in the sky above Seoul with formations of transport planes carrying "commandos".

That day, the U.S. imperialists brought to the Osan airfield several formations of transport planes carrying huge aggressor troops and combat equipment from the mainland and bases overseas for the "Team Spirit 91" war exercises and deployed them in operational zones. They also introduced formations of fighter-bombers from their bases in Kadena and Misawa of Japan to the Osan Air Base.

Mobilized in the "Team Spirit 91" war exercises in South Korea on March 11 alone were more than 500 warplanes.

Team Spirit Stages 'Landing Operation' 12 Mar

SK1303114791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged a large-scale landing operation on Pohang yesterday morning, as a climax of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, according to military sources.

Participating in this offensive operation were the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and "commandoes" from the mainland of the United States and Pacific bases and the U.S. troops present in South Korea and the puppet army, tens of thousands strong.

The landing operation signaling the start of the general offensive of the "Team Spirit 91" was supported by hundreds of fighter-bombers, assault planes, VTOL [Vertical Take-Off and Landing] assault planes, pursuit-assault planes, electronic jamming planes, refueling tankers and antisubmarine patrol planes based in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific and some 1,000 fighter-bombers, assault planes, transport planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes belonging to the U.S. Air Force stationed in South Korea and the puppet air force.

Also mobilized in the operation were hundreds of warships such as guided-missile cruisers, guided-missile destroyers, nuclear-powered submarines and landing ships from the U.S. mainland and bases in Hawaii and the Pacific and landing ships, mine sweepers and mine detection ships of the puppet army.

They extensively bombarded and bombed before starting the landing operation.

This war game is a vicious challenge to the desire of the Korean people and the world's peaceloving people who want peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification, and an unpardonable crime aimed at completing the plan for a nuclear war to attack the northern half of Korea.

'Offensive' Nature of Team Spirit Drill Viewed

SK1303052191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The "Defence Ministry" of South Korea recently claimed that the "Team Spirit 91" joint military maneuvers are not offensive but defensive exercises and the maneuvers would be "observed" by foreigners.

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as a poor excuse and ridiculous sophism to conceal the offensive and aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit 91," their wild aggressive design on the North and their truculent color as bellicose elements.

The news analysis says:

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers mainly stage offensive exercises such as river-crossing and coast landing operations for attack in the depth under the "Team Spirit" program, taking into account the topographical features of the northern half of Korea.

It is elementary common military knowledge that the landing operation is for attack. The U.S. military manual itself stipulates that landing operation is an action of attack on the land from the sea. The United States and the South Korean rulers on March 12 staged a landing operation at Pohang simulating a landing on the coastal area of the northern half of Korea with the mobilization of U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and "commandoes" brought from the U.S. mainland and Pacific bases and the U.S. troops occupying South Korea and the puppet army, tens of thousands strong.

For the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to threaten with nuclear weapons the North which has no such arms is nothing but an action for attack.

With no sophism and "invitation of observers" can they conceal the offensive nature of the "Team Spirit 91" and their intention to unleash a war against the North.

South Students' Group Calls News Conference

SK1303111391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The National Council of Student Representatives of South Korea (Chondaehyop) called a press conference on March 12 and vowed to wage a powerful struggle for the defeat of candidates of the "Democratic Liberal Party" and a campaign for the ouster of the present "government" around the local assembly elections, a radio report from Seoul said.

Chondaehyop declared that during the local assembly elections it would "strip bare the anti-democratic nature of the present government and actively join the people in the anti-DLP struggle."

It also announced that it would expose the Suso housing scandal at the "rally to denounce the 'government' concealing the Suso scandal" slated for March 16 and conduct a propaganda among the people to uncover the present "government's" scheme for long-term office between March 20 and 26.

Chon In-chol Continues Activities in Japan

Gives News Briefing

SK1203153691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 12 (KCNA correspondent)—The second round of the intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations closed here today.

Head of the DPRK Government delegation Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, gave a news briefing at the end of the talks.

Informing the reporters of the discussion of the question of the legal status of Koreans in Japan, he said:

We had given a full account of our stand on it at the first round of the talks in Pyongyang.

As the Japanese side stated in explicit terms this time that it would not suppress or be hostile to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and Koreans in Japan in the future, we appraised it as a very good thing and expressed our hope that this promise would surely be honored.

We stressed again at the talks that Chongnyon firmly adheres to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of Japan in accordance with our Republic's independent and peaceloving foreign policy and conducts its activities on the principle of respecting the law and order of Japan.

We said Chongnyon, as is laid down in its platform, is carrying on its activities for the independent and peaceful reunification of the homeland, in defence of the democratic national rights of the Korean citizens in Japan and for friendship between the DPRK and Japan, and repeatedly expressed our stand that the activities of Chongnyon are just and, accordingly, its free activities and conveniences should be ensured.

Turning to the discussion of the question of Japanese residing in Korea, he said:

At the talks we made it plain that it was because of the abnormal relations between the DPRK and Japan that the Japanese in Korea could not freely travel to their hometowns, the Japanese spouses are all leading a stable life in our country and they would be able to freely travel when the DPRK-Japan relations are normalized in future.

We again expressed our stand that if the DPRK-Japan intergovernmental full-dress talks progress smoothly, specific persons might be considered on a case-by-case basis even before the diplomatic relations are fully normalized.

Meets With Japanese Politicians

SK1203160991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1531 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 12 (KCNA correspondent)—Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol, leading the DPRK Government delegation on a visit to Japan to participate in the second round of the full-dress intergovernmental talks for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, met and conversed here today with Liberal-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Hajime Ishii, chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship.

Present on the occasion was Liberal-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Masayoshi Takemura, vice-chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship.

Visits With Chongnyon Officials

SK1203154891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1521 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 12 (KCNA correspondent) - The DPRK Government delegation headed by Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, on a visit to Japan to participate in the second round of the intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations visited the Korean Hall in Tokyo today.

It was cordially met by Chairman Han Tok-su, first vice-chairman Yi Chin-kyu, vice-chairmen Pak Chae-no, So Man-sol, Ho Chong-man, Pae Pyong-tu and Chon Yon-sik, the general director of the secretariat, and directors of the departments of the central standing committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), leading officials of organizations and enterprises and Chongnyon functionaries.

Head of the delegation Chon In-chol and the members of the delegation conversed with the leading officials of Chongnyon in an atmosphere overflowing with feelings of kinship.

Attends Banquet at Korean Hall

SK1203155891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1524 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 12 (KCNA correspondent)—The central standing committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) arranged a banquet in welcome of the DPRK Government delegation at the Korean Hall here today.

Han Tok-su, chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee, and head of the delegation Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, spoke at the banquet.

Han Tok-su said:

We have so far greeted many delegations of our Republic visiting Japan. But this is the first time since the liberation of the country that we are greeting a government delegation of our Republic.

As a result of the publication of the joint declaration of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Liberal Democratic Party and the Social-Democratic Party of Japan in September last year under the wise guidance of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il a new chapter was opened in the history between the DPRK and Japan with talks beginning for the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries which had been secluded from each other for a long time.

Our Chongnyon officials and Koreans in Japan express full support for the stand and just proposals of our Republic on the DPRK-Japan relations and hope in real earnest that the Japanese authorities will accept our Republic's proposal and thus diplomatic relations be normalized at an early date.

The Chongnyon officials and compatriots will more thoroughly implement the new year's teachings of the great leader and thus make this year a most brilliant year in the annals of the movement of Koreans in Japan and celebrate the 80th birthday of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song and the 50th birthday of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the most auspicious events of the nation, stressed Han Tok-su.

Chon In-chol in his speech said:

It is because we hold the great leader and the dear leader in high esteem that we have such a dignified and powerful organization of citizens overseas without parallel in the world as Chongnyon.

While visiting Japan we felt higher pride and honour of it.

Noting that Chongnyon has done a lot of work for the development of friendly exchange and cooperation between the Korean and Japanese peoples and for the normalization of relations between the two countries, he wished Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan greater success in their future work.

Said 'Satisfied' With Talks

SK1303155491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo March 13 (KCNA correspondent)—The DPRK Government delegation which had participated in the second round of the intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations gave a banquet here today.

Invited to the banquet were the members of the Japanese Government delegation headed by Noboru Nakahira, specially appointed ambassador at vice-minister level of the Foreign Ministry, and officials of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Present there together with the members of the DPRK Government delegation were first Vice-chairman Yi Chin-kyu and Vice-chairmen Pak Chae-no and Pae Pyong-tu of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), the director of the General Secretariat, the director of the International Department and other officials of Chongnyon.

Speaking first at the banquet, head of the DPRK Government delegation Chon In-chol said:

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we could further deepen our friendly feelings as partners and successfully broaden the road of good neighbourliness and friendship which was paved in Pyongyang.

This shows that the talks can be made to progress further at the third round due in Beijing in mid-May and, in this sense, we appreciate and are satisfied with the results of the talks this time.

Chon In-chol expressed the optimistic view that the day would come when diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan are normalized if the sides travel to each other in this way to deepen mutual understanding and cooperate closely with each other.

Noboru Nakahira said in his speech that the second round of the full-dress talks helped the sides to be better acquainted with each other's basic stand and claims.

Saying Japan and the DPRK are in the same train and boat, he expressed the belief that they would certainly reach the destination some day.

He called for vigorously racing together toward the same destination, deepening mutual trust through the continued talks in the future.

The DPRK Government delegation today visited the Tokyo stock exchange and various places of Yokohama.

Kim Il-song Sends Greeting to Chadian President

SK1303114491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings Tuesday to Idriss Deby upon his assumption of office as president of the Republic of Chad.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will grow stronger and develop day by day, the message wishes the president great success in his work to achieve national unity and stability of the country and build a prosperous new Chad.

Kim Il-song Letter to Family of Tractor Drivers

*SK1203102291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0958 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on February 27 sent a letter to 14 tractor drivers of the family of Pak Chong-kuk and Chong Yon-hwa at the Yongyon County integrated farm in South Hwanghae Province.

In his letter, he said he was very much moved to hear the report that the family of Comrades Pak Chong-kuk and Chong Yon-hwa well known to the country as pioneers of the "let-all-family-operate-machines movement" is now taking the lead in carrying out the technical revolution as a good exemplary family of farm machine operators.

He continued:

Ten odd years have passed since Comrade Chong Yon-hwa made a speech at the national agricultural conference in 1978 on the proud success that her nine-member family contributed to carrying out the technical revolution in the countryside as tractor drivers which delighted us.

During the time, your family has devotedly worked to realise the far-reaching plan of our party to build socialist rural community with invariable intense loyalty to the party and the revolution and a high revolutionary enthusiasm. You have fully displayed the noble communist trait as members of the working class in the countryside, grown up in the bosom of our party by brilliantly carrying out the party's policy of the rural technical revolution, helping and pulling each other along, united ideologically and purposefully as the revolutionary comrades who have a common goal, not merely as members of the same family.

You, conscious of being the master of the revolution, have persistently struggled to raise the operation rate of tractors and raise the level of mechanization in farm work, and greatly contributed to the increase of agricultural production.

Through your practical struggle to carry out the rural technical revolution, your 9-member family has become a large family of 14 tractor drivers and nine of them had studied hard under the study-while-working higher education system to become farm machine engineers.

It is highly commendable and admirable that a family produced 14 tractor drivers and 9 farm machine engineers.

The family of Comrades Pak Chong-kuk and Chong Yon-hwa is, indeed, a model family in the van of mechanization, revolutionization and intellectualization in the countryside and an example to be followed by all the agricultural working people.

As there is the rural working class intensely loyal to the party and the revolution like you, our party is powerful, our motherland is great and the development of our socialist rural economy is firmly guaranteed.

I extend warm thanks to you 14 tractor drivers of the family of Pak Chong-kuk and Chong Yon-hwa, highly praising you who have covered the road of loyalty, feeling the joy and worth of living in the struggle to carry out the party's policy.

President Kim Il-song expressed the hope that they would continue to creditably play in the future, too, the role of a vanguard in carrying out the rural technical revolution in good health.

Pyongyang Streetcar Lines Under Construction

*SK1203151891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1458 GMT 12 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA)—Streetcar lines are being laid at fast speed in Pyongyang.

In three months or more since the ground breaking of the first-stage project, the excavation for the foundation work of a 20 km long roadbed 6 meters in width, the formation of the safety bed and asphalt pavement of a 5 km section have been completed and a considerable part of the whole project such as parking lots, traction transformer substation and groundwork of electric poles has been carried out.

The first-stage tramway will be laid in the section from the Songsan parking lot at the approach to the Mangyongdae recreation ground to the Songsin parking lot in Sadong district passing through Kwangbok Street and by Potonggang and Pyongyang railway stations and crossing the Taedong Bridge. The double track will run through the narrow lanes on both sides on the broad boulevard of Kwangbok Street from Songsan in Mangyongdae to the Chongim flyover and through the middle of the road in the rest of the section.

Turning places will be built in different parts of the tramway. On each side of tramway there will be constructed more than 20 tramcar stops.

What is noteworthy are concrete board sleepers to be laid on the asphalt pavement. The sleeper is six meters in length and five tons in weight. Each sleeper can support a weight of one hundred and scores of tons. So it can last for decades, unaffected by any shock or vibration.

Parking lots of large area are being built in Songsan and Songsin.

Symposium Held on Letter From Kim Chong-il

*SK1303051591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0449 GMT 13 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—A national symposium of men of the press on a reply letter sent by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to the members of the second party cell of Department No. 5 of the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on November 1, 1990 was held at the People's Palace of Culture Tuesday.

The members of the second party cell of Department No. 5 of the KCNA had sent him a letter carrying their resolution to make an active contribution to the accomplishment of the cause of socialism and communism with the pen of chuche, remaining unfailingly loyal to the leadership of the party, on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Comrade Kim Chong-il read the letter and sent the following reply to them:

"To the comrades in the second party cell.

I have received your letter.

I thank you for your hard work.

Upon receiving your letter, I assure you that I will redouble my efforts and remain unboundedly faithful to the party and the revolutionary cause, living up to your expectation."

The reply letter is a banner to be upheld steadfastly by our intellectuals including men of the press to the terminus of the building of socialism and communism for the accomplishment of the cause of chuche, holding the great leader in high esteem, the speakers stressed, and continued:

The reply letter has long-standing historical tradition and it is a striking symbol of the close bonds of kinship between the leader and soldiers that are developing on to a higher stage in the 1990's and a proud epical canvas of single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses, the true appearance of our country today.

Recalling that Comrade Kim Chong-il called intellectuals including men of the press by the noble title of comrade, they noted that this reflects his deep intention and hope that all the intellectuals will be an eternal companion, a faithful helper and a good adviser of the party and profound meaning on the closest relations between the leader and soldiers.

All the journalists and editors, in hearty response to the reply letter, should prepare themselves as penmen boundlessly faithful to the party and the leader and bring about a new turn in press service so as to loyally repay the deep political trust and expectation of the party with great achievements in creative activity, they stressed.

Daily Stresses Enhancing Role of Party Cells

SK1303100091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 4 Mar 91

[NODONG SINMUN 4 March editorial: "Let Us Vigorously Display Our Party's Might By Enhancing the Role of Party Cells"]

[Text] Today we are faced with the heavy task of highly displaying the superiority of our country's socialism by highly upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address and by vigorously accelerating the socialist construction.

In order to successfully fulfill this task, our party must be strengthened and a new turning point must be brought about in party work.

Success or failure in the revolution and construction depends on how much the party is firmly maintained and how the party's leadership role is enhanced.

In order to consolidate the might of the party as invincible, the party cells which constitute the party must be firmly maintained and their role enhanced.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has taught: The party cells are the lowest grass-roots organizations of our party which directly organize and guide the party life of its members. Only when the party cells are firmly maintained and their role enhanced, can the whole party be strengthened.

Firmly maintaining the grass-roots party organizations, including the party cells, and enhancing their role are the basic conditions in strengthening the party. This is because, most of all, the role of the party cells must be enhanced so that the party can further smoothly carry out its function as the organized unit.

The party is an organic link of party organizations. As the cell must be sound if the living organic body is to be sound, if the party is to be strengthened, the party cells which are the party's grass-roots organizations, must be firmly maintained.

Only when the party cells are firmly maintained and all the party cells are composed of a monolithic system, which is just like one organic body, can the party smoothly carry out its leadership function as the organized unit.

A party which has a firm party cell does not waver in whatever trials and difficulties arise, but a party which has a weak grass-roots party organization can be easily crumbled, just as a house built on sand.

Firmly maintaining the party cells and enhancing their role are fundamental demands in strengthening the party life of the party members and strengthening the whole party.

Strengthening the party life of the cadres and party members is the basis of party work and a demand to consolidate the party rank in an organizational and ideological way.

Through party life, the party members elucidate their political life and carry out the revolutionary struggle to strengthen and develop the party.

The role of party cells must be enhanced so that the party life of party members can be strengthened and thus, the whole party becomes strengthened.

A sound life of the party cell is a firm guarantee to strengthen the whole party by training the party spirit of its members and ensuring their ideological and political training.

Enhancing the role of the party cells is an important demand in making the party take deep roots among the popular masses and in making the party's blood vessel pass through wherever the masses are. The kindred ties with the popular masses are the life of the party. A party must take deep roots among the masses to maintain its existence and guarantee its leadership position.

Importantly, the link between the party and the masses is realized through the party cells and the functionaries. Normally, the party cells inform the masses of the party's ideology and intention, and the party cells also make them live and act according to the party's intention.

Enhancing the role of the party cells makes it possible to establish correct policies in executing the party policy by reflecting the masses' demand, and by concretely understanding the situation of the lower echelons.

The more the party cells and functionaries carry out the work with the people well, the party's blood vessel will pass through all the people of the whole nation better, and the masses will have further faith in and enthusiastically follow the party.

The party among the masses is always invincible and the revolution will progress successfully under whatever circumstance arises.

Our party always strengthens the grass-roots party organizations including the party cells, and by endlessly enhancing its function and role, the party's might is consolidated as invincible, thus the revolution and construction have been vigorously accelerated.

From the first days of our party's founding, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song elucidated that the basic guarantee for strengthening our party organizationally and ideologically is to strengthen the party cells, and to enhance their role. He also visited different party organizations throughout the country and led them energetically.

Along with 10 party members of Nagwon during the ghastly days of the war, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song visited the farmers of Tangsan-ri and personally led the party cell meeting. This clearly showed how important is the issue of enhancing the role of our party cells.

Due to the wise leadership of the great leader, it was possible from the first time, for our party to endlessly strengthen and develop as an organic link of the sound, vitalized, party cells.

The function and role of party cells have been enhanced unprecedentedly, and the might of our party has increased to invincibility in the proud march to model the whole party after the chuche idea under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Our party center elucidated the principles and theories of the chuche-based party work and saw to it that the function and role of the grass-roots party organizations were enhanced constantly, and made it possible to strengthen the organizational and ideological life of the cadres and party members.

As a result, today, a revolutionary work system and discipline have been established within our party to firmly guarantee the uniformity of the ideology and leadership.

All party work and party activities have thoroughly progressed under the guidance of the party center, and all the party cells and party members move according to one organizational principle, work system, and discipline.

Just like the No. 2 party cell members of the Fifth Bureau of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, all party cells and party members have a high loyalty toward the great leader and our party center, think and act only according to the party's intention, and are sincerely upholding the party's cause. This shows that our party is a mighty party which has sound, vitalized party cells.

Today, at a time when we have entered into the grand march of the second year of the nineties, we are faced with the task of further strengthening our party's military might by enhancing the role of the grass-roots party organizations.

Our party has taken active measures toward the upheaving historic trend, and unfolded a magnificent plan of highly resounding the voice of victory in the socialist construction.

The revolutionary duty and militant goal which we have to fulfill are clear, and before us lies the endlessly magnificent future.

According to the party's intention, we must further maintain the party cells and enhance their role so that endless upsurges can be brought about in the socialist construction. What is most important here is that all party cells must deepen their struggle to establish the party's unitary ideology system which is in accordance with our party's consistent revolutionary line, thus, firmly guaranteeing the unity of the ideology and leadership within the party.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has taught: According to the consistent revolutionary line of our party we must endlessly intensify the struggle to establish the party's unitary ideology system so that the party ranks can be thoroughly dyed into one color of the chuche idea, firmly defend the party's cohesion and unity centering around the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, and further strengthen and develop it into a higher stage.

The party's solidity and vitality is guaranteed according to the unity of the ideology and leadership. The unity of the ideology and leadership must be guaranteed so that the party organizations can be further consolidated in an organizational and ideological way, and can achieve unity of ideological will of the cadres and party members.

There can be only one ideology in the party. If there are many kinds of ideologies in the party, true unity cannot be achieved even though the party may be one organization, and the party cannot carry out its mission and role smoothly.

Based on the leader's ideology and leadership, the party must firmly guarantee the unity of the ideology and leadership within the party, and in order to achieve this, the work to establish the unitary ideology system must be endlessly intensified.

Establishing the unitary ideology system of the party is the primary principle of our party building set forth on the basis of the chuche-oriented revolutionary view of the leader. The key nucleus in establishing the unitary ideology system of the party is to lead cadre members and party members to be loyal and dutiful to the party and leader, taking their faithfulness to the party as their firm revolutionary faith. Only when all cadre members and party members take their loyalty to the party as their firm faith can they not only resolutely struggle against all alien ideological trends which runs counter to the unitary ideology of the party, but also share the destiny with the party to the end.

By constantly strengthening the struggle to establish the unitary ideology system of the party among cadre members and party members, party cells should lead cadre members and party members not only to think and act according to the party's intent and breath wherever and whenever and whatever they do, while taking their faithfulness to the party as their revolutionary faith, but also to more thoroughly realize the modeling of our party after the chuche idea.

If and when all cadre members and party members form the unity of an ideological will based on the chuche idea, sharing the destiny with the party, there will be no task that cannot be carried out, and our people's forward movement to consummate the cause of socialism will be constantly victorious. What is important in enhancing the role of party cells is to institute the strong discipline in which all party cells move as one under the unitary leadership of the party center, and to establish among cadre members and party members the revolutionary habit of unconditionally accepting the party's decision and instruction and carrying them out.

The revolutionary organizational spirit and disciplinary character are the life of the party. The party is the political unit organized to carry out the revolution, and the party's combat capability lies in its strong organizational spirit and disciplinary character. Only when the revolutionary discipline is established within the party can the unity of the ranks of the party be ensured, and can the whole party vigorously carry out the revolution and construction with unified strength.

Our party's discipline is the revolutionary discipline to firmly rally party members organizationally and to guarantee the unitary leadership of the party center. We should establish the strong discipline under which all party cells and party members are active according to the organizational principle and rules of the party and under which the whole party moves as one under the unitary leadership of the party center. The party's discipline is the discipline applied to all party members without exception. There cannot exist higher party members and lower party members within the party and, accordingly, no double disciplines can exist within it.

It is the sacred duty of party members to follow and abide by the party's discipline. Therefore, all party cells should see to it that all cadre members and party members strictly obey the party's discipline and abide by the party's organizational principle and rules regardless of their positions and merits. The party's discipline can be maintained and its vitality can be displayed only when it is based on party members' voluntariness. All cadre members and party members should voluntarily abide by the party's discipline and should actively make efforts to strengthen the party's discipline.

Party cells are the lowest combat units which directly implement the party's policy. The primary mission of party cells is to directly implement the party's intent and plan. The victorious advance of the revolution and construction depends on how party cells and party members safeguard, defend, and implement the party's line and policy. All party cells and party members should accept the party's line and policy as the most correct ones, and should unconditionally and thoroughly implement them while taking them as the only standard of their work and living.

"What the party decides, we will do" is precisely the slogan of faith that our people cherish in their hearts today. Therefore, party cells should see to it that upholding this slogan of loyalty, all cadre members and party members accept the party's line, policy, decision, and instruction as the demands of their lives, and display the revolutionary habit of unconditionally and thoroughly implementing them.

When all our party cells and members display such a high degree of loyalty and devotion, the party's lines and policies will bear brilliant fruit, and our party will come to enjoy invincible might.

With this, our party can do whatever it decides to do. Another important thing in raising the role of party cells is to educate revolutionarily party cadres and members, and to test them organizationally and ideologically, guiding them so that they can play their vanguard role in carrying out their revolutionary tasks in the course of leading party life.

The party cell is the lowest, basic echelon of organization which coordinates and guides the party life of party cadres and members. It is also the base of operation for party life. It is the basic duty of party cells to correctly guide party members and cadres in their party life. The party cells should deeply realize the importance of their mission and duty, and then organize their guidance over party members' lives inside the party.

Party cells should routinely organize and practice organizational and ideological life inside the party, including the summing up of party life and the party's study session, seeing to it that all members participate in these activities without fail, and running party meetings substantively at a high political and ideological level.

When it comes to organizing and leading party life, it is important to make the best use of the new system of party life set up by our party center. Party life is a process of ideological remolding based on endless indoctrination and criticism, and a course of organizational and ideological training aimed at the raising of revolution-mindedness, party-mindedness, people-mindedness, and working-class consciousness.

Party cells should make party cadres and members thoroughly revolutionized by endlessly educating them and organizationally and ideologically training them through their practical running of the new system of party life, which was the spirit of the anti-Japanese guerrillas' party life and which has now been creatively developed in a way that suits today's reality.

Party cells should be the cells of loyalty which bring up party members as loyal servants and filial sons through party life.

All party cells across the country are now renewing their fiery resolve to remain loyal and filial to the party and leader. They also resolve to follow the party forever, just like the party members of the Second Cell of the Fifth Department of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, and to actively struggle to translate that resolve into action. This is indeed a proud undertaking that glorifies our party's history of struggle as, once again, a history of proud single-minded unity.

Party organizations should endlessly lengthen the ranks of loyal party cells by staging even more vigorously a struggle for turning party cells into cells of loyalty.

Party cells should correctly give party members party assignments according to their level, actively help them implement the assignment, and put all party cadres and members constantly on the move by summing up the status of their implementation of the assignment in a timely manner, and by giving them new assignments. They should also make sure that party life is carried out in close relation with the implementation of their revolutionary duty.

The party members' course of activity as revolutionaries is the process of realizing their revolutionary duty. Apart from the implementation of the revolutionary tasks, cadres and party members cannot conceive of any party life in the pure sense of the word.

Party cells should always organize and guide cadres and party members in their party life. They should also assess party life based on the progress made in their implementation of revolutionary tasks, with the weight put on making cadres and party members set examples in implementing their revolutionary duty ahead of others.

Party cells should do a good job of rallying the masses firmly around the party. Doing a good job in the work with the people is an indispensable condition for strengthening and developing the party into an invincible revolutionary party that has struck its root deep in the masses.

For the party to become an indomitable party that stands firm without wavering under any adverse circumstances, it is imperative to win absolute support and trust from the masses.

All party cells should endlessly deepen the work with the masses in a way that corresponds with the new demands of the developing revolution.

Party cells should organize well the work with people, according to the demands of reality on the basis of the party's consistent policy to rally the masses from all walks of life firmly around the party, after educating and remolding them all. In particular, they should see to it that the single-minded unity between our party and the people becomes more solid by trusting them, by impartially assessing their work and life, and by paying profound attention to resolving all the problems they encounter in a manner of their true parents.

It is important to enhance the responsibility and role of party cell secretaries and to lead secretaries into becoming the model for party members in party life. Secretaries of party cells are the responsible persons of infrastructural party organizations which directly organize and guide the party life of both party members and the primary political functionaries of our party. The level of party members' party lives is determined by the level and role of party cell secretaries. It is precisely the secretaries of party cells who know and grasp better than anyone else the problems in party members' work and lives, ranging from the state of their organizational and ideological life to the state of both their ideology and their revolutionary tasks.

Therefore, secretaries of party cells should equip themselves with a lofty sense of responsibility. They should organize, plan, and strengthen the guidance of party members' party lives in conformity with the state of their preparedness and characteristics, and with the state of their revolutionary tasks. By so doing, secretaries of party cells can constantly improve party members' organizational and ideological lives, and can prepare them to become indomitable party members.

Secretaries of party cells should not only be deeply aware of the importance of the party's great trust and their duties, but they should always deeply study the work of party cells. At the same time, they should also organize and plan the work of party cells in detail, and should implement it in a substantial manner. Secretaries of party cells should have broad knowledge and organizational ability, otherwise they cannot correctly solve various problems which arise in the process of their work, nor can they become the model for party members.

Secretaries of party cells should constantly improve their work method and style, and they should frequently conduct studies to enhance their organizational skill and ability. They should also constantly make efforts to cultivate themselves, and to increase their technological level and skill. Secretaries of party cells should always be veterans who are tested in their work. They should always be generous. At the same time, they should have strong characters and should take the initiative in doing difficult and arduous work with overflowing vigor and energy. In addition, they should always be humble, carefree, and unworldly-minded. They should always mingle and associate candidly with party members, and they should listen to and accept their demands and opinions, thereby making efforts to realize their demands and opinions in a timely manner.

Secretaries of party cells should reject passiveness, conservatism, anility, and lack of progress. They should be progressive in fulfilling their tasks. They should wage all tasks in a broad and bold manner by mobilizing the strength of party members. When numerous party cell secretaries who work in all sectors and units—including plants, enterprises, and cooperative farms—exert themselves with the lofty sense of responsibility, the role of all party cells can be enhanced, millions of party members can be further tempered and cultivated organizationally and ideologically, and our party's combat capability can be incomparably strengthened.

To enhance the role of party cells it is imperative for party committees at all levels to control and guide party cells on a regular basis and to properly assist their work in conformity with the demands of the party committees' position and duty. Only when party committees at all levels properly control and guide party cells on a regular basis can the party's intent and policy be disseminated into lower echelons in a timely manner, and can party cells and members smoothly perform their duties and roles in a viable manner and with a high sense of responsibility.

Party committees at all levels should ascertain in detail the state of activity and the work of party cells, and should establish guiding measures in conformity with their situation. Thus, party committees at all levels should substantially assist all party cells in actively moving to implement the party's intent and plan. In particular, responsible party functionaries should always go down to party cells, work together with party members there, and attend party meetings along with them. Responsible party functionaries should also teach secretaries of party cells, assist them in carrying out their work, and thus lead them to correctly conduct guidance to and summing-up of party cell members' work.

The fact that our party has thousands and millions of viable party cells which have been firmly rallied around the party Central Committee is precisely its great pride. All party organizations should thoroughly implement the party center's intent to firmly build party cells and the party's infrastructural organizations, and to further enhance their role in conformity with the demands of the developing revolution. Thus, all party organizations should deepen the combat capability of our party into an invincible one, and should make the nineties the era of a new great upsurge.

KCNA Review of 13 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK1303055191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the party and government delegation of Angola.

Carried in the press are reports that President Kim Il-song received from different countries solidarity letters supporting the new proposal for national reunification he put forward in his New Year address and seminars on his New Year address were held abroad.

NODONG SINMUN rounds up working people's reaction to the letter of President Kim Il-song to fourteen tractor drivers of the family of Pak Chong-kuk and Chong Yon-hwa at the Yongyon County integrated farm in South Hwanghae Province.

The paper runs an article titled "Admirable Model Family of Tractor Drivers in the Countryside".

It says in an article that President Kim Il-song achieved national liberation by uniting people of various strata as a revolutionary force during the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Works of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il were studied and disseminated abroad, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article saying that reverence for Comrade Kim Chong-il was growing stronger among the South Korean people on the occasion of the significant holiday of February.

Given in the press are an account of a national symposium of men of the press on a reply letter sent by Comrade Kim Chong-il to the members of the second party cell of Department No. 5 of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY and a report that the book "Kim Chong-il and Bright Korea" was brought out in Pakistan.

MINJU CHOSON carries an article on the great solicitude shown by Comrade Kim Chong-il for Kim Pyong-sik who was the director of the General Bureau of Pyongyang City Construction.

NODONG SINMUN introduces the achievements gained by the building workers of Tongil Street in Pyongyang.

The chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Austria met with the Korean ambassador to Austria and the general secretary of the Mariateguista Unification Party of Peru met with the Korean ambassador to Peru, says the paper.

Papers report that the second round of the intergovernmental full-dress talks for normalizing DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations closed, the head of the DPRK Government delegation met the chairman of the Dietman's League for Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship, the delegation visited the Korean hall of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee arranged a banquet in honour of the delegation.

It is reported in the press that DPRK skaters gave a good account of themselves at the World Junior Speed Skating Championships and in the 3,000 metres event of short track at the international winter Universiad.

Carried in the press is a statement issued by a spokesman for the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK in denunciation of the South Korean Red Cross side for refusing to convey letters of the chairmen of the Central Committees of the General Federation of Trade Unions and the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea and of the Korean Students Committee to the acting chairman of the "National Council of Trade Unions" and chairmen of the "National Council of Peasants Associations," the "National Council of Student Representatives" and the "National Council of Representatives of Youth Organizations" in South Korea.

The president of the International Table Tennis Federation who had visited Pyongyang warmly welcomed the participation of the unified team of the North and the South of Korea in the world championships, says the press.

According to the press, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers staged a landing operation at Pohang with the mobilization of large aggression forces.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON come out with articles under the respective titles "'Team Spirit' and Nuclear War Commanding System" and "War Exercises Aimed at Nuclear Pre-emptive Strike".

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary denouncing the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets for their sophism to cover up the offensive and aggressive nature of the exercises.

In an article the paper lays bare the criminal nature of the "reform formula of credit management" put forward by the South Korean authorities.

The world public strongly demanded the release of Yim Su-kyong called the flower of reunification, says the press.

Papers report that the Chinese foreign minister visited Greece and Malta, a plenary meeting of the Moscow City Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union adopted a resolution to defend Lenin, the USSR Council of the Federation approved the draft of a new union treaty, and the ministry of interior of the Soviet Union made public data on a joint patrol.

The minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries of Japan said that the Japanese Government would ban rice import, says NODONG SINMUN.

South Korea

UN Envoy Gives News Conference on Entry Plans

SK1203142691 Seoul YONHAP in English 1255 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 12 (YONHAP)—Ambassador No Chang-hui, newly-named head of South Korea's mission in the United Nations, said Tuesday that Seoul may apply for its unilateral entry into the United Nations at any time before the world body's General Assembly meeting this year.

No said, in a press conference held a day before his departure for New York, that he got a feeling that China has begun to give "favorable consideration" to Seoul's formula for Korea's U.N. membership.

The 53-year-old diplomat added: "Our intention was delivered to China both through direct contacts and indirect channels via our allies, including the United States."

No, however, said that the South Korean Government will take a step to confirm Pyongyang's stance finally before submitting an application for the U.N. membership. "We will once again call on North Korea to join the world body simultaneously in the inter-Korean high-level talks if they were resumed," he said.

Earlier this year, North Korea called off the fourth round of inter-Korean premiers' conference slated for February 25 in Pyongyang, to show its displeasure at the annual South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise "Team Spirit." The military exercise, which is officially described as a defensive drill, ends late March or early April.

North Korea has insisted the South and North share a single U.N. seat, while South Korea proposes the two sides join simultaneously as separate members. Seoul has said it would seek to join the world body unilaterally if Pyongyang continued sticking to its position.

Seoul may withdraw its application even after it was formally made if Pyongyang clearly expresses its willingness to accept Seoul's formula, No said.

Government's 'Inopportune Foreign Policy' Viewed

SK0903121891 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
9 Mar 91 p 2

[From the "Reporter's Notebook" column by Economic Desk reporter Kim Kwang-hyon: "Inopportune Foreign Policy"]

[Text] When former Prime Minister Cho Sun visited the United States late last year when the ROK-U.S. trade friction had reached its climax, a working-level official in the U.S. Department of State told him that "with the end of the cold war, you can tell your friends from your enemies only by economic interests. Therefore, the Uruguay Round [UR] negotiations, on which the United States focuses its national interest based on purely economic considerations, will be the first test which enables one to see who is one's enemy."

This means that the issue of reorganizing the international economic order, which has recently become a subject of discussion, was already quite mature by that time. Failing to sense this, our government not only took a very hardline protectionist position in the UR negotiations, but also vociferously carried out the import restraint movement at home. Later, though, the government had to appease the United States by finally dismissing the Commerce-Industry Minister during the cabinet reshuffle late last year, calling him to account. Besides, at the ROK-U.S. economic consultative conference in January, our government turned over to the United States all that it had to.

On 22 January, when European nations announced the postponement of their assistance to the Soviet Union as a way to show disapproval for the Soviet Union's armed repression of the Baltic Republics, our government hastily decided to offer $3 billion to the Soviet Union as funds for economic cooperation. About this point, Hong Kong's FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW reported that "This was the worst decision in terms of timing" and that "The United States, which was demanding that its allies share expenses for the Gulf war, was also discontent."

Previously insensible to the trends of the times and global flow, the ROK Government suddenly became shrewd in February, as if it had belatedly sensed the feeling of the United States.

The government voluntarily decided to share the second-term expenses for the Gulf war and hurriedly dispatched an Air Force transportation corps. Since the war ended with unilateral victory of the allied forces, the government dispatched an investigation team in an attempt to take advantage of postwar rehabilitation projects and held conferences and meetings one after the other, thus kicking up a great rumpus.

It has been learned that since the government and the press clamored so boisterously about special business transactions, the U.S. Embassy in our country had recently expressed its undisguised displeasure to our government.

Only belatedly in an informal meeting of economics-related ministers on 5 March, did the government show some circumspection, noting that "the boisterous clamor about our pushing for participation in rehabilitation projects may result in disadvantages for resolving the UR negotiations and ROK-U.S. trade issues."

Before we criticize the high-handed U.S. attitude, we should point out that our government, which is unable to sense changes in the international trend in a timely way, indeed makes one depressed.

New Ambassador to U.S. Discusses Relations

SK1303122491 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
13 Mar 91 p 5

[Report on an interview with Hyon Hong-chu, new ambassador to the United States, by unidentified reporters on 12 March; place not given—first paragraph is introductory note]

[Text] Ambassador Hyon Hong-chu, 51, who has been appointed the ROK's fourteenth ambassador to the United States, met with reporters on 12 March prior to his 15 March departure. He said: "As a matter of fact, I am worried because I have assumed my post at a time when the greatest significance is attached to ROK-U.S. relations."

[HANGUK ILBO] An early-warning system designed to prevent trade friction between the ROK and the United States has been under discussion. What do you think of this?

[Hyon Hong-chu] Problems arose not because an early-warning system failed to work. The early-warning system has worked well. However, I do not think that sufficient efforts have been made to properly reflect early warnings in our policy decisions. Therefore, efforts must be made to ensure that such information is smoothly distributed among government ministries and private businesses.

[HANGUK ILBO] What do you think about the issue of readjusting ROK-U.S. military relations and the position of U.S. forces in the ROK?

[Hyon] Relations of security and cooperation will be readjusted based upon our enhanced position. The presence of U.S. forces in various countries, including our own, will be fully readjusted according to the interests of each country.

[HANGUK ILBO] Some people worry that if we give excessive priority to the United States, we may not be able to pay attention to the northern policy. How would you comment?

[Hyon] The United States has absolutely supported the northern policy. At this time, when the cold war is over, the West, the Soviet Union, and other East European countries are promoting cooperation to a great extent. The two directions of diplomacy with the United States and the northern policy do not collide.

[HANGUK ILBO] Do you think we will be able to persuade China to agree to our entry into the United Nations?

[Hyon] China has attached significance to international public opinion and cooperative relations among the powerful countries. Since the Gulf war ended, China has not assumed an attitude running counter to the overall international atmosphere.

[HANGUK ILBO] Ambassador Hyon, you have been known to be the public relations channel of the Sixth Republic. Do you have any special plans to carry out public relations activities while in the United States?

[Hyon] I will not tell a lie when talking to the foreign media. Public relations activities toward the United States are important; domestic support for those activities are even more important.

[HANGUK ILBO] You are relatively young for an ambassador to the United States. How would you comment?

[Hyon] My educational background is different from those of my predecessors because I am the first ambassador to the United States who was educated after the liberation. I think that I was chosen because the president wants me to work, while making practical political judgments.

North, South Table Tennis Players To Meet

SK0903065491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (OANA-YONHAP)—Table tennis players from South and North Korea will meet at a Tokyo airport on March 25 to form a single team for the 41st World Table Tennis Championships in Chiba, Japan, April 24-May 6, the South Korean Table Tennis Association said Saturday.

The players will arrive at Narita Airport and attend a welcoming ceremony at the airport arranged by the organizing committee, officially becoming the first joint Korean team ever to participate in an international sports meet.

The new team will then head for Nagano, where they will train until the end of March, and move to Nagaoka on April 1. On April 11, they will go to Chiba, the site of the competition, for final training.

The team will attend welcoming ceremonies given by the mayors of the cities where they will train. The pro-Seoul Mindan and pro-Pyongyang Chochongnyon Korean residents groups will throw a joint welcoming party for the united team.

South and North Korea also agreed to field a joint team to the World Youth Soccer Championships, slated for Portugal in June, in sports talks Feb. 12.

Sports, Youth Minister Assesses Northern Policy

SK1303022591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD (SUPPLEMENT) in English 13 Mar 91 p 1

["Full text" of keynote speech by Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on at opening ceremony of Seminar on Northern Policy and Russo-Korean Relations on March 11: "Political Situation of the Korean Peninsula and Progress Toward Reunification."]

[Text] First of all, I'd like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the opening of the Seminar on Nord Politik and Korea-Soviet Union Relations. I also wish to give my wholehearted welcome for Anatoliy A. Sobchak, mayor of Leningrad in the Soviet Union, who has made unsparing efforts to develop Korea and Soviet Union relations.

As you know well, Mayor Sobchak is a standard-bearer of the Perestroyka policy being respected as the leader of leaders in the next-generation politics of the country.

With my great honor and privilege to deliver a keynote speech, I'd like to give you some ideas of the tasks and directive in pursuing the northern policy and the importance and significance it holds in our history.

President No and his staff took great pains after the election to come to grips with the changed reality facing the new government and to identify the key issues facing the nation. As a result, we had set out three main objectives: democratization, national reconciliation and, finally, reunification.

The first task was to consolidate democracy. President No had sparked off the democratization drive in his June 29 Declaration of 1987, in every corner of society and throughout all the ranks of government administration, while ensuring that the economic "miracle on the Han River" would continue.

The second task facing the new administration was national reconciliation. Regional animosity, as well as antagonism between classes and generations, had become embedded in every structure of our society. The alleviation and removal of these phenomena and the attainment of a genuine national reconciliation therefore became our foremost priority.

The third task was to find a breakthrough in the deadlock in our efforts to achieve reunification based upon national self-esteem.

Even before the inauguration of the new administration Korea had been quite active in international relations, maintaining diplomatic relations with about 120 countries. Yet, we must admit that it was a rather unimaginative diplomacy, formulated largely with the west in mind and determined, to a large extent, by Korea's close allies.

Given such a diplomatic framework, we pondered much on whether Korea could profess to be a genuinely independent state. Following our deliberations we came to the conclusion that it was up to us to solve our problems in an independent and active manner. To that end, we decided that what was required was opening dialogues, establishment of official ties, and ultimately normalization of relations with the socialist countries of the Eastern bloc.

And this is how the northern policy came into being. Before the birth of the new administration, Korea's most immediate preoccupation had been to overcome such fundamental concerns as hunger and poverty, while at the same time the nation was forced to do much soul searching over the question of political legitimacy born of prolonged authoritarian rule.

With the advent of the new administration such issues became obsolete, giving way to a new set of challenges. We had now to work out a more positive and ambitious plan in keeping with our objectives to become an advanced and independent state. From this historical perception, the northern policy had significant bearing on achieving national reunification as well as promoting our international status.

Formulation and implementation of the northern policy

At this point, I would like to touch on how the northern policy has been formulated and implemented in our new administration.

The present northern policy actually dates back to early 1985, when it was first reviewed systematically at government level. At that time, specialists from relevant ministries grouped together to form a Northern Policy Unit and a South-North Korea Unit under my responsibility. It was decided then that a fresh start be made, and an entirely new approach was adopted.

We began by seriously asking ourselves why the previous northern policy, despite its long history, had got us virtually nowhere. The answer we came up with was that the previous policy was not in synchronization with our policy towards North Korea. We acknowledged that, in fact, the ultimate aim of the previous northern policy was little more than to force North Korea to comply with our unification policy by normalizing relations with China and the Soviet Union and weakening its alliance system, thereby isolating it.

In other words, we recognized that the old northern policy, partly constrained by circumstances, was neither sufficiently geared towards the grand goal of ending national division nor of raising national self-esteem. Rather, such a strategy had the effect of alarming not just North Korea, but China and the Soviet Union as well. As such, our policy was largely counterproductive, leading merely to small increases in trade and sports exchanges rather than to laying the foundations for unification, the goal we cherished so deeply.

For this reason, we became keenly aware that a progressive and even bold policy toward North Korea should be an intrinsic part of our new northern policy. This point was specified in the Special Presidential Declaration on National Self-esteem, Unification and Prosperity which was announced on July 7, 1988.

What then remained to be done was to work out the precise objectives and means of implementation of the northern policy. The initial result was a three-stage blueprint:

The first stage provided for the setting up of diplomatic ties with a carefully selected socialist country with a view to creating a conducive environment for other socialist nations to follow suit. This was a departure from the old northern police whose priority was to simply try normalizing relations with all socialist countries at the same time.

The objective of the second stage was two-fold: to proceed to normalize Korea's relations with all socialist nations, including China and the Soviet Union, on the one hand, and to realize a summit meeting between South and North Korea on the other, thereby realizing peaceful coexistence and free travel.

The third and final stage would involve the peaceful reunification of our fatherland. In view of the strong determination to achieve such a goal within this century, the blueprint for this stage sets a deadline of 1999. In order to make this possible, we have drafted all the necessary provisions for the short, medium and long-term.

Fortunately, the implementation of our northern policy coincided with highly favorable developments in the world community. These included the introduction of a far-reaching foreign policy by the Soviet Union, reflecting the new thinking of the Soviet leader, Gorbachev; the wave of reform and openness in East Europe; and the Seoul Olympic Games, a great festival for the peace of all mankind which was held in Korea for the first time.

In order to carry out the northern policy, a special assistant was newly appointed in the Presidential Office, in addition to the formation of the Committee for Consultation and Coordination of Northern Policy, an intra-ministerial consultative and coordinating body.

Underlying all these efforts was the strong determination of the Korean leadership to ensure that the northern policy was implemented thoroughly and effectively. In the meantime, the Special Presidential Declaration of

July 7, 1988, which I have already mentioned, gave a momentum to the new policy line on South-North Korean relations.

The main thrust of the July 7 Declaration was that South Korea would seek common national prosperity along with North Korea on the basis of mutual recognition of the national community. In this regard, it said, South Korea would assist the efforts of North Korea to improve relations with our allies while, for our part, trying to normalize relations with socialist countries like China and the Soviet Union.

In short, the declaration pointed out that, divided as they are, North and South Korea should collaborate in the international community to map a path to peaceful reunification while, at the same time, promoting common prosperity.

Obviously, in taking such bold and progressive measures, we did not expect any prompt response or acceptance from North Korea. Rather, our action was based on the conviction that as long as both sides continued to maintain a head-on confrontation, never yielding on any point that did not seem to serve their unilateral interests, no solution could be found. Under such circumstances, distrust and animosity could only continue to foster.

In facing up to these realities and offering an entirely fresh approach for breaking the deadlock the July 7 Declaration served as a launching pad for our northern policy.

Our north policy was favorably received by the Communist bloc, and it provided us with the momentum for manifold new and unforeseen opportunities, despite their initial hesitation in improving relations with us for fear of damaging the ties which they had built up with North Korea in the past.

Fifth, the northern policy will be carried out prudently with due consideration to public opinion and national wisdom. In view of the far-reaching implications this policy may have for the nation's future, it should be based on the national consensus and implemented with consistency and prudence under a well-prepared plan.

For this purpose the No administration has established an inter-agency coordinating body designed to accommodate public opinions and diverse views from various walks of life in decision-making process of the northern policy.

Outcome and prospects

As I have already explained,the blueprint for northern policy was initially composed of three stages. The objective of the first stage was achieved when we established diplomatic relations with Hungary at the ambassadorial level in February, 1989.

This served as a catalyst in establishing diplomatic relations with almost all other East European countries starting with Poland in November 1989, soon to be followed by Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania.

Moreover, the impact of our northern policy was brought to bear upon non-aligned countries of Asia, Middle East and Africa as this rush of our diplomatic inroad reached Mongolia, Algeria, Namibia, Congo and Zambia.

Before the inauguration of the No administration, we had diplomatic relationship with 128 countries and now this number has increased to 145.

A noticeable change has occurred as well in Korea's relationship with the Soviet Union and China, the closest allies of North Korea. In particular, Korea and the Soviet Union established full diplomatic relations as of Sept. 30, 1990 following the summit meeting of June 4.

As for the Korean-Chinese relations, it is true that, despite the Tiananmen incident, they have been improved considerably. The exchange of trade offices and establishment of de facto consular relationship as a prior step to full diplomatic relations are expected to be realized very soon and the Beijing Asian Games provided us with a turning point for a new development.

When it comes to inter-Korean relations, some spectacular changes may be in store. North Korea will find it difficult to adhere to its old policy, when it realizes that the Soviet Union, having established diplomatic relations with South Korea, is no longer a Cold War ally. In this case, there is only one option left to North Korea.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and the Soviet Union will undoubtedly lead to the normalization of Korean-Chinese ties. This development, together with the tremendous economic and diplomatic difficult[illegible] North Korea faces, will put unbearable pressure on North Korea toward reforms as well as an open-door policy.

Of course, North Korea is expected to strengthen its closed-door policy in the short term, but in the longer term it has no other choice but taking reforms and an open-door policy.

The situation in the Korean Peninsula is undergoing dramatic changes prompted by new developments such as South-North prime ministers' meeting, North Korean leader Kim Il-song's visit to Shenyang, establishment of Soviet-South Korean diplomatic ties, and recent North Korean move toward Japan.

At this stage, North Korea's intention seems to lie in constraining the results of South Korea's northern policy within manageable limits, especially the unwelcome consequences of the Korean-Soviet summit and their normalized relations, while pretending to be sincere in South-North dialogue.

In any case, the drastic changes of the situation around the Korean Peninsula must be rather embarrassing for the North Korean leadership. Therefore, whatever North Korea's immediate intentions may be, the change of situation around the Korean Peninsula will certainly put additional pressure on the North Korean leadership to bring about changes in their system.

As such, my government has been pursuing the northern policy with a clear objective and concrete ideas of opining new vistas for the nation's future.

First, our northern policy has a more positive objective than simply deterring war by isolating North Korea. It also aims at accomplishing our deep-seated national aspiration for reunification of the divided country, moving into the center stage of the world community in the 21st century, and thereby contributing to the pace [as published] and common prosperity of mankind. That is why we have not sought to isolate North Korea while normalizing relations with such Socialist countries as Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and Romania.

On the contrary, we asked them to maintain friendly ties with North Korea and help its development and opening up in a way that can contribute to the reconciliation and unity between the two halves of Korea.

This principle was set out clearly in President No's addresses to the 43rd U.N. General Assembly in October 1988 and to the Hungarian Parliament in November 1989.

Second, unlike in the past, our northern policy is closely linked with our policy toward North Korea and unification strategy.

Any effort by either side of Korea to improve relations with the allies of the other side behind its back will only result in heightened mutual mistrust and tension.

It is evident that our northern policy would not be accepted by North Korea's allies if it were intended for isolating North Korea or weakening its status.

The same logic applies to our allies if North Korea attempts to improve relations with them behind our backs as a means of undermining our national security.

In brief, we have pursued the northern policy in a wider context of improving inter-Korean relations rather than just for the sake of normalizing relations with the northern countries.

This principle is reaffirmed by the forward-looking, audacious policy initiatives toward the North as set forth in President No's July 7th Special Declaration and in his address to the 43rd U.N. General Assembly as well as in the "Korean National Community Unification formula" enunciated in November 1989.

Third, exchanges with the Northern countries in political domains will be conducted in parallel with those in non-political fields.

Of course, the steady increase of non-political exchanges will pave the way for improved political relations.

However, serious economic cooperation can be undertaken only under the circumstances in which direct trade, free travel and investment protection are guaranteed and, most important of all, when mutual trust prevails.

These conditions can be met when normal relations are established between Korea and the northern countries concerned.

Without normal relations it would be impossible to undertake any ambitious economic cooperation projects, not to speak of achieving our ultimate goal of peaceful unification and common prosperity of mankind.

Fourth, the northern policy will be pursued on the basis of existing ties of friendship with our traditional allies including the United States, Korea's closest ally and most important trading partner with which Korea also shares common political institutions and ideology.

It is nice to make new friends, but old friends are all the more important.

Our northern policy may have aroused some concerns that it might cause unnecessary strain on Korean-American relations.

It must be understood, however, that our northern policy is not basically out of tune with our allies policies. It does not mean Korea's breaking away from the Western camp but aims at extending its diplomatic sphere to the Communist world with a view to creating conditions conducive to detente and peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula and eventually to the common prosperity of mankind.

Policy direction and tasks for the future

In just two and a half years, our northern policy has made remarkable successes. The first stage of the northern policy—setting goals, molding basic policies and strategic principles and making diplomatic breakthrough with a specific socialist country—wound up successfully Feb. 1, 1989, when we exchanged ambassadors with Hungary.

Now, our northern policy is in the middle of its second stage. At this stage we are set to establish full relations with all socialist countries including the Soviet Union and China. More importantly, we have to realize a South-North summit meeting and open a new era of reconciliation and free travel. These tasks must be accomplished before February 1993 when President No's term ends. Now, the remaining task for the northern policy is to establish diplomatic relations with China. Eventually, we should crown it with peaceful unification by successfully resolving our national problems with North Korea.

To accomplish the ultimate goal of realizing a unified fatherland before the end of this century, we will carry out northern and unification policies more resolutely and more practically.

First, from now on, the northern policy should approach the Soviet Union, China and North Korea as a whole and inter-twined issue. Till now, the northern policy has adopted a target-oriented strategy (or concentration approach). We selected a specific country and focused intensive efforts on it to obtain the most visible result in the shortest time, expecting its pervasive effect.

However, the northern policy at its second stage will not deal with the Soviet Union, China and North Korea separately or one by one. More desirable is to approach them with a broader perspective. As we have expected, our northern policy is getting stronger reactions from North Korea as it continues to make great progress.

In this circumstance, hasty improvement of our relations with China may, if mishandled, turn out counterproductive, stiffen the inter-Korean relationship and even increase the danger of another war on the Korean Peninsula.

We have to keep in mind that North Korea is now undergoing a delicate process of power transition. The northern policy in the coming years should be geared to bringing North Korea abreast with the changes in international and regional political situations and, at the same time, cultivating the sense of "national community" in both the North and the South through patient dialogue. For this, we should approach the Soviet Union, China and North Korea as an interconnected triangle, helping North Korea smoothly accommodate itself to the internal and external changes without feeling isolated or threatened with possible internal upheavals.

Second, the northern policy from now on should more actively pursue reconciliation with North Korea.

Based on the results of northern policy thus far achieved and national confidence grown, we will pave the way to national unification with stepped-up efforts on reconciliation with the North. The logic of the zero-sum game cannot be applied to our relations with the North. Therefore, the first task is to remove mutual distrust, antagonism and fear and to restore national identity. We need to review afresh and open-mindedly every proposal North Korea has made on such matters as mutual exchanges and cooperation as well as on politico-military issues.

As a first step, after comprehensive review of North Korea's military power and threat assessment, we must take a more positive arms control measures, fully considering North Korea's viewpoints and concerns. Meanwhile, in keeping pace with the developments in our relations with the Soviet Union, China and other Eastern European countries, we need to help and assist North Korea improve relations with our allies. It is because patience and concessions from us who are in better position will be the most effective persuasion to North Korea.

Based on this, we have to exert our utmost to realize the North-South summit meeting. We believe that a most essential and effective way of finding breakthrough in inter-Korean relations is for the highest authorities of the South and the North to meet with each other and agree on basics for peace and unification.

One thing we must keep in mind in our efforts to achieve national reconciliation and unification is that to avoid doing what we should not do is as important as doing what we should do.

Since the division, both the North and the South have made numerous proposals. It now seems time to reflect if they were made with full consideration of their acceptability or practical usefulness.

Unilateral proposals without considering each other's situations or their acceptability will only aggravate confrontation and conflict.

It will be more desirable to have informal prior consultations with the North before announcing any proposal. To promote national reconciliation and unification, any of our proposals to North Korea should be considerate and sincere enough to give sufficient attention to North Korea's position and their acceptability.

For instance, sports exchanges should be expanded step by step by selecting single items of games subject to North Korea's competitiveness like soccer, table tennis and boxing.

Since I took the position of the minister of sports and youth, I've been strengthening sports exchanges to build a cornerstone in the inter-Korean exchanges and the reunification.

As a result of such efforts, sports officials from South Korea and North Korea came to terms with each other in favor of joint representation for international games at the meeting of the truce village of Panmunjom on February 12 for the first time since the division of Korea in 1945. The first great turning point in such a historic agreement in 28 years has laid a cornerstone in national reconciliation and progress towards reunification.

In terms of economic relations, South Korea and North Korea should work on reciprocal substantial cooperation in a way to build up mutual reliability. The present indirect transactions will need to be converted into direct through the barter of surplus products. Both sides would hammer out possibilities to utilize capital from such international banking institutions as ADB (Asia Development Bank) and World Bank, when it comes to the joint development project concerning Mt. Kumgang.

The inter-Korean transportation exchanges should be desirably expanded in a direction to contribute to increasing tourist income for the side of North Korea. Also special efforts need to be made in inaugurating the flight route between China and Japan to link Seoul and Pyongyang which is now under discussion with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and also in developing tourist districts to link Mt. Sorak and Mt. Kumgang.

Finally, we must prepare ourselves for a new international order. We cannot confine ourselves within the Korean Peninsula and expect further development. Our reliance on foreign countries has increased in every sector.

Security policy solely aiming at military superiority or chauvinistic and narrow minded nationalism will neither achieve unification nor serve as a take-off joining the ranks of the major nations in the world.

We have to free ourselves from the Cold War mentality and move to develop domestic and foreign policies attuned to a new era of reconciliation and cooperation. To take an easy example, our old sentiments toward Japan. We should not brand importing Japanese movies or watching Japanese TV programs as unpatriotic behavior.

We must be open-minded enough to embrace our neighbors. However, we should keep in mind that no foreign policy can succeed if it is not backed by national strength.

Public support and cooperation are key factors in carrying out important foreign policy. We need to face squarely and respond creatively to new international orders in all areas—political, economic, social, and so on. We should firmly root and widely spread "a New Spirit Campaign" to prepare ourselves for the coming era of unification and prosperity.

Spiridonov Comments on Moscow Demonstration

SK1303114891 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Interview with Lev N. Spiridonov, director general of TASS news agency, by Korea Broadcasting System anchorman Pak Song-pom, on 12 March; place not given—recorded, with Korean subtitles for portions in Russian]

[Text] [Pak Song-pom] Thank you very much for being with us on the Nine o' Clock News program. A large-scale demonstration took place in Moscow the day before yesterday [10 March]. Participating in this demonstration were 500,000 people. I think you had left Moscow before then. Reports say that this was an anti-Gorbachev demonstration by Yeltsin supporters. How do you assess this demonstration?

[Spiridonov] This was not a demonstration to demand the resignation of Gorbachev or to support Yeltsin. The demonstrators simply demanded stability in the socioeconomic situation. Hundreds of thousands of people demanded social reforms because these reforms had been delayed. A variety of forces, from far right to far left, participated in the demonstration. The socioeconomic crisis led them to participate.

[Pak Song-pom] Do you think there is a force that can replace Gorbachev in the Kremlin leadership?

[Spiridonov] Only Gorbachev can rally the reformist forces. Those popular politicians who frequently appear on domestic and foreign media lack firm authority in the republics and in the regions.

[Pak Song-pom] I know that dealing with each republic's independence movement is as urgent a task as undertaking economic reform in the Soviet Union. Do you think that strong-arm measures such as last January's bloody crackdown in the Baltic republics by Soviet Armed Forces can maintain the Soviet Union?

[Spiridonov] The leaders of these republics demand democracy and freedom only in words. They do not want a referendum on the existence of the Union and the separation of the republics. They are even hindering the referendum. I believe they are responsible for the recent tragedy. What took place in Riga must not be repeated. Confrontation among those who do not respect other people and those who insist on only their opinions produced the tragic result.

[Pak Song-pom] TASS news agency is the most influential news media in the Soviet Union and is also the best known outside the Soviet Union. However, the international community considers TASS very conservative, that is, the government's spokesman. How would you comment on this?

[Spiridonov] I think that assessment lacks an objective basis. The distribution of information is the main mission of TASS; we refrain from expressing political views. The distribution of information means the distribution of facts. TASS reporters distribute facts.

[Pak Song-pom] Thank you very much.

Philippine Telecommunications Project Financed

HK1303062891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 13 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] The Export-Import bank of Korea signed a contract yesterday to lend the Philippines $5.4 million to help finance a telecommunications expansion project.

Bank officials said the money would be used by the Philippine government to import an electronic telephone switching system from South Korea for the expansion of telephone facilities in Misamis Oriental. They said the loan, extended under the Seoul government's program of aiding developing countries, would be repayable over 20 years, including a five-year grace period, at an annual interest rate of 3.5 percent.

The contract was signed between Hong Jae-hyong, president of the state-run Korean bank, and Rodolfo I. Dumaplas, Philippine charge d'affaires in Seoul.

Meanwhile, the National Telecommunications Commission [NTC] announced that it recently granted the Philippine Communication Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) a provisional authority to reduce its tariff rates for satellite-leased circuits.

Penned by acting NTC Commissioner Josefina T. Lichauco and Deputy Commissioner Hidela Dumlao, the order said the reduction will be in the best interest of the public.

Based on the recommendations made by the NTC technical and financial staff to provisionally approve the proposed reduction of Philcomsat's rates by $35 and $60 for a 10-year and 15-year subscription commitment, respectively, the NTC authorized the communications satellite firm to apply the reduced rates to calls to the Asia-Pacific basin, North America and the Middle East.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., so far the only subscriber to Philcomsat's satellite-leased circuit, will benefit from this rate reduction.

Negotiations, however, are going on with several telecommunications companies operating in the Philippines which are interested in subscribing to Philcomsat's leased circuits, according to Arsenio Afable Jr., vice president for marketing of Philcomsat.

Cooperatives' Heads Allowed To Run in Elections

SK1203005391 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] An unexpected ruling by the Constitution Court yesterday has opened the way for heads of six farming and fisheries-related cooperatives to run for the upcoming local assembly elections.

At a precedent-setting ruling, the country's highest court said that the clause in current Local Assembly Election Law banning the cooperative heads' candidacy for the vote is "unconstitutional."

The six cooperatives are agricultural, fisheries, livestock, forestry, tobacco leaf and ginseng production cooperatives.

The court ruling said that the heads of the cooperatives are not government servants and thus keeping them from running for the elections violates the Constitution which guarantees equal opportunity for those assuming public posts and equal suffrage.

The top court, however, upheld the Local Assembly Election Law clause, banning heads of local farmland improvement cooperatives from candidacy for the vote, by saying that their jobs are close to public servants in their nature.

The court also ruled as "against the Constitution," the clause in the election law obliging candidates for the large-area local assembly election to deposit 7 million won each with the government.

The mandatory deposit is too high and virtually blocks the opportunity for have-nots to run for the vote, the court said in its ruling.

"The high deposit amount also infringes upon the basic constitutional right for equal opportunity to assume public posts," the ruling read.

Police Said on Alert for Illegal Electioneering

SK1303064491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0629 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 13 (YONHAP)—National Police Headquarters (NPH) went on full alert Wednesday in its self-imposed mission of preventing illegal electioneering and campaign violence.

"An election supervisory team, comprising 222 subposts across the nation staffed by 4,058 policemen, has begun 24-hour operation to tackle election-related crimes," NPH Director Yi Chong-kuk told a news conference on the last day for candidates to register. The top police official said anyone campaigning illegally, for example by handing out gifts or money or by violence, would face stern legal measures.

NPH announced earlier it had arrested six people for election offenses, booked two without physical detention and had 48 others under investigation.

To prevent violence, police would arrest anyone who occupied a podium, threw stones, fought, obstructed a campaign speech or did any other act of violence associated with an election, Yi said.

"Camouflaged illegal activities such as distributing printed materials that slander a candidate and making false allegations against another candidate will also come under fire," he said.

Yi also warned that illegal demonstrations causing social stability will be strongly suppressed and that the police will continue with the war on crime declared by President No Tae-u last year.

Business Activities Show Signs of 'Recovery'

SK1003011791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] With the Gulf war over, domestic business activities are showing signs of a visible recovery.

The Federation of Korean Industries yesterday posted the overall business index for this month at 110 based on the 100 standard of last month. It is the first time that the monthly business survey index has crossed the 100 level since the turn of this year.

Last month, the indicator fell to a record low of 67 due to a general fear among business concerns of an expansion of the Gulf war which broke out on Jan. 17. The Gulf dispute dates back to Aug. 2 last year [when] Iraq invaded and annexed Kuwait, thus sending a chilling wave through the world economy.

The Federation, the nation's largest private economic organization, said that business activities are apparently rebounding following the end of the Gulf war due to declining prices of raw materials on the international market and the exchange rate stabilization of the won against the U.S. dollar. It forecast that the electronics, textile and construction industries would be engaged in robust production activities in consideration of growing demand in the Middle East for post-war rehabilitation projects.

However, the Federation said that some factors which might strain business activities still exist as the United States is expected to strengthen its trade pressure against Korea in connection with the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and labor-management relations may disintegrate into confrontation. The continuation of high prices also was cited as another negative element.

Taking into account such factors, the Federation said that it is too early to diagnose that business activities will fully recover soon.

In the meantime, the export index for this month was posted at 105, thanks to a post-war boom in the Middle East and increasing demand in the Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries.

But the Federation said that it is impossible to expect a tangible increase in exports in the days to come because of poor arrivals of letters of credit (L/Cs). The arrivals of L/Cs, which serve as a yardstick of export trends two or three months in advance, fell 8.4 percent in February over the corresponding month of last year.

The Federation said that electronics exports will be brisk because of a rapid increase in demand in the Middle East and the socialist countries.

The post-war boom in the Middle East will perk up exports of tires, textiles, steel, commercial vehicles and construction equipment and materials.

But the Federation said that financial conditions will remain in the doldrums because of the restricted supply of loans by banking institutions, increases of public service charges and elections of autonomous local councils.

Firms Receive 'Many' Orders From Middle East

SK0903033891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea's general trading companies are having many letters of intent from nations in the Middle East as a result of aggressive business efforts, sources said Saturday.

"The postwar demand is beyond our expectations, two to three times more letters of import intention than during the war, and our most urgent tasks are to find ways to satisfy the demand as well as to find new customers," said one of the sources.

As of Friday, seven of the companies, but not the state-run Korea Trading International Inc., had signed contracts worth 140.4 million U.S. dollars with buyers in the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war on Feb. 28, they said.

The sales are 60 million dollars of television sets and related products to Egypt and 40 million dollars of machinery for vehicles to Saudi Arabia by Lucky-Goldstar International Corp., 15 million dollars for 3,000 cars to Kuwait, 15 million dollars of machinery to Saudi Arabia and 7.2 million dollars of textiles to Iran by Daewoo Corp., 1.1 million dollars of textiles to Saudi Arabia by Hyosung Corp., and 100,000 dollars of textiles to the United Arab Emirates and 2 million dollars of aluminum products to Iran by Ssangyong Corp.

On top of that, Lucky-Goldstar is pushing for contracts worth 200 million dollars for cars and home electronic appliances to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and Hyundai Corp., Sunkyong and Samsung Co. are propelling contracts for textiles, steels, cars, electric wire, tires and electric and electronic products.

The companies will send task forces led by senior executives to the region for market survey and sales promotion activities before March 17, when Ramadan begins. All seven are the trading arms of business groups.

Samsung Chairman Sin Hyon-hwak was to head a 10-member task force, but has been replaced by Vice Chairman Yi Pil-kon for health reasons.

Daewoo Group Chairman Kim U-chung may go instead of Vice President Om Kil-yong. Kim told overseas branch heads Feb. 24 he should take the helm of the team to galvanize sales activities.

Hyundai, coming up with a group-level decision, will send Ha O-mun, managing director of Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co., to the United States to seek joint ventures or sub-contracts with American firms in postwar reconstruction projects.

Lucky-Goldstar Vice President Sin Hong-sun will visit Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and Sunkyong, Ssangyong and Hyosung are likely to follow suit, replacing the heads of their Mideast task forces with top-level officials.

In order to avoid Ramadan, a month of fasting during which it is impossible to do sales activities, the task forces will arrive around March 12.

In order to help these sales efforts, state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) will send teams to the Mideast in April and May, hold an exhibition of Korean goods in Dubai in May and try to get many Korean firms to take part in an international trade fair in the United Arab Emirates the same month.

Firms Sign Contracts With Middle East Nations

SK1003015991 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Mar 91 p 6

[Text] Korean exporters' strenuous efforts to cash in on the postwar demand boom in the Middle East have started to bear results.

The combined export contracts signed by the nation's seven general trading companies [GTC] since the Feb. 28 cease-fire have totaled $140 million, and new import orders keep pouring in from the war-torn region, business sources said yesterday.

The eight-day contract total includes a $60-million TV exports to Egypt and a $40-million transportation machinery shipments to Saudi Arabia by Lucky-Goldstar International Corp., and Daewoo Corp.'s $15-million car exports to Kuwait, $15-million machinery exports to Saudi Arabia and $7.2-million textile exports to Iran, they said.

Hyosung Corp. will ship out $1.1 million worth of textile goods to Saudi Arabia, and Ssangyong Corp., $2 million worth of aluminum products to Iran, they said.

Lucky-Goldstar has also negotiations underway for another $200 million export deal of cars and electronic appliances.

Larger GTCs, including Hyundai Corp., Samsung Co. and Sunkyong Ltd., are looking to strike up to $1 billion in deals in such items as steel, and textile goods, cars, electric wires, tires, and electric-electronic appliances, the sources said.

The general traders are sending high-powered sales mission to the Mideast region for promoting and signing the contracts before the Ramadan fast season starts there March 17. Among the popular items most frequently appearing in the Mideast nations' import list were motor vehicles, electric-electronic goods, machinery, blanket, carpets, vessels, cement, steel, lumber and bread, they said.

Companies Seek Larger Share of Oil Imports

SK0903064891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Most of the crude oil imported by South Korea arrives aboard foreign-flag tankers because of shortage of tankers of Korean registry, and Korean shipping companies say they want to carry a bigger share of their nation's oil.

Korea imported 49.63 million tons of crude last year.

The nine tankers Korea has have a capacity of 18.19 million tons but carried only 13.16 million tons last year, 26.5 percent of the total oil imported, shipping sources said Saturday.

Yukong Line Co. has four very large crude carriers totalling 1.025 million deadweight tons, Hanam Tanker Co. has four (714,900 dwts) and Kyungin Energy Co. one (79,900 dwts).

It was the first year Korean-flag vessels carried less than 30 percent of the total. The rate was 31.6 percent in 1988 and 30.9 percent in 1989, the sources said.

Ships of Korean registry carried 71.7 percent of the iron, 54.4 percent of the steel, 52.8 percent of the raw material for fertilizer, 51.3 percent of the coal and 39.8 percent of the containers imported in 1990.

They blame the low level of oil shipments on the government's preference for full containerships and iron and coal carriers in giving shipbuilding approval. Korea shipping companies own 290 vessels of 11.21 million dwts.

Five of the nine oil tankers, amounting to 923,000 dwts, were built in 1972-1975 and are due for retirement.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir May Discuss U.S. Bases With ASEAN

BK1203153891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 12 (AFP)—Malaysia is prepared to discuss the U.S. military bases in the Philippines with its Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) partners, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Tuesday.

"We can discuss it but we are not going to be a base for anyone," BERNAMA News Agency quoted Dr. Mahathir as saying in response to Philippine Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos' call Monday for an ASEAN meeting to discuss the bases.

ASEAN groups Malaysia and the Philippines with Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand.

Mr. Ramos said that ASEAN nations should collectively share the burden of hosting the facilities and decide to reduce or do away with U.S. military presence in the region.

The Philippines and the United States are negotiating terms for extending the lease for the bases after it expires in September.

Malaysia, which has backed ASEAN's call for a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality to keep out big-power rivalry, is a member of the five power defence arrangement which also includes Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Britain.

Danish Foreign Minister Hosts Ghafar Baba

BK0803090491 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Feb 91

[Text] The pending conclusion of an investment guarantee agreement between Denmark and Malaysia is expected to spur Danish investors to move into Malaysia.

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said this at a dinner hosted by Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen in Copehnagen last night. He said Malaysia would draw on Danish expertise and technology, particularly on cultivation and processing of agricultural produce, food and beverage, and chemical engineering, and electronic goods.

A Danish official said both countries had agreed on the terms of the agreement which has been under discussion for three years, and had cut red tape to ensure its conclusion.

Mr. Ghafar also reiterated Malaysia's call to countries like Denmark to exercise their influence on the impending European single market so that third countries would not suffer as a result of the move.

In his speech, Ellemann-Jessen noted that bilateral trade between the two countries, which had been expanding in recent years, was a [word indistinct] pattern and diversified further.

Singapore

Japan Urged To Intensify Dialogue on Security

BK1303113891 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Singapore has called on Japan to have a full, comprehensive, and frank dialogue with its Asian neighbors on its future contribution to international security. The foreign minister, Mr. Wong Kan Seng, said this would ensure that no misunderstanding develops as Japan begins to (?undertake) greater global responsibilities. He was referring to the fear of many Asian countries that American pressure might push Japan to become an independent military power again.

Mr. Wong was speaking at a symposium on the changing role of the United Nations in conflict resolution and peace keeping. Speaking to reporters later, the Japanese deputy foreign minister for political affairs, Mr. Hisashi Owada, welcomed Mr. Wong's call for a comprehensive dialogue. He said Japan should intensify this process as there has not been enough of it.

Australia Gives Reassurances on Trade Policies

BK1203135091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Singapore, March 12 (AFP)—Singapore said Tuesday the removal of tariff preferences by Australia for itself and other Asian industralising economies was unfortunate even as it welcomed Canberra's trade liberalization measures.

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement however said Singapore had received assurances from Australia that overall its exports there "will benefit significantly from the Australian tariff cuts announced today" by Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans has written to his Singaporean counterpart, Wong Kan Seng, to explain the measures and to convey assurances that the adjustments to the preferential arrangements would be made in a way that no substantive tariffs on Singapore's exports would be raised.

"Also, Singapore will continue to enjoy the margin of preference granted to developing countries on products on which substantive duties as at 1 July 1992 will be five per cent or less, as the general rates on those items are not being reduced," the ministry said.

"We hope that with these assurances, trade between Singapore and Australia would not be adversely affected. The Trade Development Board (TDB) will be studying these measures in greater detail," it added.

Total trade between Singapore and Australia was worth 4.47 billion Singapore dollars (2.61 billion U.S.) in 1990.

Imports from Australia amounted to 2.13 billion Singapore dollars (1.25 billion U.S.) while its exports there totalled 2.34 billion Singapore dollars (1.37 billion U.S.) giving a trade surplus of 210 million Singapore dollars (122.8 million U.S.) for the republic.

Cambodia

Thai, Resistence Sources Say Government Poised

BK1303005391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1712 GMT 12 May 91

[Text] Bangkok, Mar 12 (AFP)—Phnom Penh government troops are poised for a large-scale offensive against guerrilla positions in northwestern Cambodia, Thai army and resistance sources said Tuesday.

The Phnom Penh Army has since earlier this month reinforced its garrison in Svay Chek, a strategic hamlet on Highway 69, with 1,500 troops backed by 20 Soviet-made T-54 tanks and mobile rocket launchers, Thai army sources said.

Highway 69 runs parallel to the Cambodian-Thai border, 30 kilometres (20 miles) inside the country.

Since Sunday, resistance sources said, Phnom Penh forces have been attacking Thmar Puok district, home to 8,000 people and controlled by the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

Tanks and other heavy weapons are being used in the attack, they said.

Guerrillas from the three resistance factions—including the Khmer Rouge, the KPNLF and forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk—were defending the district in the most serious outbreak of fighting since the current dry season began, the sources said.

The Thai army source said Phnom Penh troops launched heavy mortar and rocket attacks at dawn Tuesday against KPNLF positions at Phum Thmar Sen, Phum Kontrei and Phum Preay hamlets just north of Highway 5.

Casualties figures were not known, he said.

The guerrillas have shelled Highway 5, a strategic road linking Cambodia's border town of Poipet to the hinterland, in an attempt to disrupt overland transportation, the source said.

PRACHEACHON Condemns Aid to Resistance

BK1203154391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 Mar 91

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "The Outdated Deceptive Maneuver"]

[Text] It is the traditional strategy of hegemonists to implement their schemes by employing reactionary groups. In fact, a huge amount of war materiel and equipment has recently been shipped to the Cambodian reactionary groups via a neighboring country, with its assistance and permission.

In the northern region of the country, the people and combatants of the State of Cambodia have uncovered a great many of the enemies' arms caches. Along with this, confessions by misled compatriots have also significantly shown that the enemies have already rejected a settlement via peaceful means. Moreover, the enemies have increasingly ignited the flame of a destructive war causing our people to further face hardship, misery, and separation and seen their 12 years of achievements suffer destruction.

By all accounts, the hegemonists' deception consists of clamorous statements they have used to pretentiously show that they have earnestly strived to put an end to the war in Cambodia. This is only a maneuver, howeveer, that even ordinary people can see through, and their intrigues can never be hidden. Lately, they have blatantly demanded that all the contending parties totally accept the five major countries' framework blueprint and draft agreement, which has conspicuously been endorsed unconditionally by their puppets, who are currently intensifying their criminal and destructive activities against the innocent people.

By all appearances, the enemies have planned to resolve the complicated issues through hiding their strategy, meaning that they are ambitious to retake power via military means, or at least to continue holding the upperhand on seizing and controlling territory. As such, they have no genuine goodwill whatsoever in the search for a political solution.

The State of Cambodia never wanted to see the war waged by the Cambodian reactionary groups protracted. It has welcomed and accepted several points of the 26 November 1990 document and the appropriate role of the United Nations in conformity with the UN Charter and the principle of respecting Cambodia's national sovereignty and the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people. The State of Cambodia is always ready to continue further negotiations and discussions on the provisions of the document that remain inappropriate. It welcomes the international community's contributions toward achieving a just and lasting political solution which can bring about genuine peace for the Cambodian people. The State of Cambodia is resolved not to allow the other Cambodian side and its cronies to lead the world public, which is unaware of the situation, down the garden path. Only the State of Cambodia has a resolute determination and capability to block all forms of return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Party Cabinet Chief Meets German Delegation

BK0903100091 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] On the morning of 8 March at the party Central Committee cabinet office, Comrade Im Chhunlim, member of the party Central Committee and first deputy chief of the party Central Committee cabinet, held talks with Dieter Schanz, head of the German parliamentary delegation.

Also present at the meeting were cadres from the Foreign Ministry and the party Central Committee cabinet as well as representatives from the Socialist Democratic Party of Germany [SDPG] in Hanoi.

Taking the floor, Dieter Schanz mainly pointed out the SDPG's intention to determine the assistance that Germany can provide to Cambodia and to promote the international community's awareness on the Cambodian problem.

In his answer, Comrade Im Chhunlim underlined the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party's broad policy toward the inside and foreign countries which was defined by the Second National Congress of Cadres. In view of the policy, the party has the intention to establish relations of friendship and good cooperation with the SDPG for the cause of peace, independence, democracy, and social progress.

Moreover, Comrade Im Chhunlim called on the German parliament, the SDPG, and Socialist International organizations to assist in promoting the five-point appeal launched by the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Hun Sen, on 7 March 1991 at a mass meeting held to express support for the resolutions adopted by the last extraordinary session of the National Assembly.

The meeting was conducted with interest in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

German Group Meets Hor Namhong, Ends Visit

BK1203063791 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0405 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 12 Mar (SPK)—Foreign Minister Hor Namhong assured visiting German members of Parliament that his government worked to promote the process of negotiations and called for the cessation of foreign military aid to all Cambodian factions and a voluntary cease-fire.

"The Khmer Rouge and their allies, however, have intensified their large-scale attacks aimed at toppling the State of Cambodia and bringing back the genocidal Pol Pot clique against the will and aspiration of the Cambodian people," stressed the State of Cambodia's chief diplomat when he received in Phnom Penh on 8 March a parliamentary delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany headed by Dieter Schanz.

Hor Namhong informed his guests of all the points that the State of Cambodia can accept in the framework document worked out by the five big countries for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. He added that the Supreme National Council (SNC) represents Cambodia's sovereignty in the transitional period; that free, fair, and democratic elections and the UN role must conform with the UN Charter and rest on the basis of the respect for Cambodia's sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

Hor Namhong also stressed that the State of Cambodia does not accept any document that does not mention concrete measures to prevent the Polpotist clique's return to power, nor can it accept the dismantling of its civil administration and its armed forces before the general elections.

Cambodia's minister of foreign affairs held that the visit of the German delegation was a contribution to the improvement of understanding between the two countries.

For his part, Dieter Schanz, head of the German parliamentary delegation, highly appreciated the gains made by the State of Cambodia in the restoration and reconstruction of the country. He pledged to do his best so that the German people have a better understanding of the real situation in Cambodia.

The delegation left Phnom Penh on 9 March following a four-day stay during which it was also received by Mat Ly, member of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Assembly and of the party's Control Commission.

Defense Ministry Updates Feb Military Situation

BK1303052791 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0130 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 12 Mar (SPK)—The forces of the three reactionary factions intensified their attacks in February, firing heavy artillery barrages on some areas of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Battambang, Kompong Thom, and Kampot provinces, according to a report of the Ministry of National Defense.

During the same period, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces launched 97 counteroperations. They put out of action 938 enemy soldiers, seized 988 assorted weapons, seven walkie-talkies, a considerable amount of munitions, and 790 mines, and destroyed a vehicle, two generators, and 57 camps.

In the 5th Military Region (Battambang Province), during counteroperations conducted northeast of Treng on 8 February, the 4th Division killed 15 intruders and destroyed four mortars and three metric tons of ammunition. On 17 February, 25 enemy soldiers were killed and 13 firearms were seized.

In the 4th Military Region (Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province) on 16 February, 18 enemies were killed and 24 others were wounded in the sector of Sre Noy, east of the district of Varin and northeast of Svay Leu. The government forces seized 546 shells, 440 cartridges, and a walkie-talkie.

According to the same source, on 31 January the forces of Banteay Meanchey Province put out of action 236 enemy soldiers, including 70 killed, and destroyed a tank and on 29 January in Kompong Thom Province, the naval forces captured 54 enemy soldiers and seized nine firearms at Popok township.

Military Successes in Week Ending 28 Feb

BK1103063491 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] During their counterattacks in the week from 22 to 28 February, our armed forces on all battlefields inflicted serious losses on the enemies.

In that week our combatants launched 18 successful operations, putting out of action 237 enemy soldiers, including 109 killed, 20 disarmed, 100 wounded, and 25 forced to surrender, and seized 75 assorted weapons, two walkie-talkies, and a large amount of ammunition and war materiel.

On 21 February 1991, a contingent of units 9 and 52 coordinated actions in counterattacking the enemies northeast of Phnum Srok, Banteay Meanchey Province. As a result, we killed 20 enemy soldiers, wounded 31, and captured three others and seized a large amount of war materiel.

Heng Samrin Speaks on International Women's Day

BK0803110291 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Greetings message from Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia, to women throughout the country on the occaision of the 81st international women's day 8 March 1991—recorded]

[Text] Beloved female comrades and fraternal [as heard] women:

On the occasion that all our comrades and fraternal Cambodian women are marking the 81st international women's day of 8 March—the day of great united struggle waged by women throughout the world for freedoms, equal rights, democracy, and social progress—on behalf of the party, state, and front and in my own name, I would like to express deep respect and gratitude and extend best wishes to all female comrades who are cadres, female combatants, workers, employees, mothers, and fraternal women from all walks of life throughout the country who have been broadening their spirit of genuine patriotism and actively contributing to the cause of our national rebirth and the stability and progress of our national society.

Since its birth on 7 January 1979, our new regime has paid attention to enhancing women's roles in our society and protecting the interests of the Cambodian women and children. This is totally contrary to the practice in the former regimes, particularly the genocidal Pol Pot regime which had committed serious atrocities against our Cambodian women and children. In this direction, networks of women's associations have been built and have been expanded broadly throughout the country, and have effectively implemented their duties and tasks and have developed into women's patriotic movement to join with our people throughout the country in the struggle, surmounting all obstacles and making all kinds of sacrifices, for the cause of defending and building our motherland.

This women's day of 8 March 1991 is held under the slogan: Everything is for the cause of peace, national independence, and progress of the Cambodian women and children.

The sacred aspiration of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP], government of the State of Cambodia, and Cambodian people—over half of which are women—as all other progressive people across the world, is to achieve peace, live happily, and build their country with peace and happiness. They want to quickly achieve a correct, reasonable, fair, and equitable national reconciliation which is free from any outside pressure, intimidation, and coercion and based on respect for national independence and sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to self-determination, thus putting an end to the war, misery, and separation, and bringing about a genuine and long-lasting peace with a clear guarantee that there will be no recurrence of the genocidal regime.

At present, despite their repeated defeats on the battlefield, the enemies still seek every means to destroy the aspiration and interests of the Cambodian people and women and hinder the progress of our national society. While escalating their military activities, robbing and massacring our Cambodian people indiscriminately every day, they have tried to exploit our State of Cambodia's goodwill for peace and national reconciliation by intensifying psychological warfare propaganda with the aim of making the public opinion become doubtful of the sincere goodwill of our Cambodian party, government, and people.

But we are always confident in our irrefutable truth and goodwill. All the enemy maneuvers and activities will certainly be condemned and defeated.

For the cause of peace, national independence, and progress of our Cambodian women and children, I would like to appeal to female cadres, female combatants, and fraternal women of all nationalities throughout the country to continue to strengthen unity; expand the spirit of patriotism, self-reliance, mastery, and confidence in the party leadership; strive to promote the five-good women's movement by daring to make sacrifices and helping to stimulate the entire social movement to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime; and join in bringing new step of progress to the Cambodian society in all aspects.

On this occasion, I would like also to appeal to the fraternal women who are living abroad to make all-round contributions to seeking understanding and support for the State of Cambodia's correct stance for the cause of our nation's peace and happiness.

The compatriots within the ranks of the other Cambodian side should persuade your husbands, sons, and relatives to turn over a new leaf by regarding the national and people's interests above all else, stop launching sabotage activities against their own nation, and quickly return to live with their families and the national society so as to jointly build our country, making it prosperous and happy.

May the 8 March spirit live forever with Cambodian women.

Trade Union Federation Chairman in Kompong Som

BK1203062491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0414 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 12—Mrs. Men Sam-an, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and president of the Kampuchean Federation of Trade Unions, recently made a tour of Kompong Som city, a deep-sea port about 230 km to the southwest of Phnom Penh.

During her four-day tour, Mrs. Men Sam-an called on cadres and employees at different public services, dockers at the sea-port, workers at a sea-products factory, a rattan-produce workshop, an ice-mill, and combatants at Ream Naval Base.

She spoke of the recent developments in the country, including the enemy's harsh attacks against innocent people in the northwestern province of Battambang, and denounced their dark scheme to topple the Phnom Penh government.

She urged all the combatants to heighten their vigilance against the enemy's attempt, and firmly defend the social gains and the safety of the population.

On March 9, Mrs. Men Sam-an, following her tour of Kompong Som city, called on the staff-members of the "April 17" hospital on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

She praised the tireless efforts of the workers and cadres there in providing medical care for sick people, and recommended them to work harder to contribute to the cause of national defence and construction.

Kampot District Seat Attacked, Liberated

BK1303003391 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] From 2 to 5 March, our resistance forces launched a two-pronged attack to liberate Kampot district seat [Kampot Province].

1. The first prong attacked Kampot district seat located at Kbal Romeas and made sweeping attacks from the south of National Route 3 along Route 16; attacked Kbal Romeas commune office, Kon Sat commune office, Sangke Thmei commune office, a battalion position at Chamka Dong, and a company position north of the Damnak Chang-aeu railway station.

2. The second prong made sweeping attacks from the north of National Route 3, against Prey Khmum commune office, Thmei commune office, and Stoeng Kev commune office and destroyed a battalion position at Stoeng Kev and two company positions at Dey Et and Vat Ang.

After a two-hour battle, we completely liberated the two fronts with the following results:

1. We killed 54 enemy soldiers, including two battalion officers and three company officers, and wounded 79 others; and took four prisoners. We destroyed 38 AK's, 45 SK rifles, 23 B-40's and B-41's, 25 AR-15's, two CENTO machine guns, three M-30 machine guns, 10 machine guns, a quantity of assorted ammunition, two warehouses, seven commune offices, 119 military shelters, three paddy mills, 15 barrels of diesel, a rice stock, a paddy stock, six vehicles, three water pumps, and a quantity of other war materiel.

2. We seized 42 AK's, 27 SK rifles, an 80-mm mortar, 45 B-40's and B-41's, eight light machine guns, a Goryunov machine gun, five RPD's, 12 AR's, 14 machine guns, two pistols, a 60-mm mortar, and a quantity of assorted ammunitions.

3. We liberated seven communes: Thmei, Stoeng Kev, Prey Khmum, Kon Sat, Prey Thom, Kbal Romeas, and O Krasa; and 38 villages [number as heard]: O Spean, O Thkov, Trapeang Chrap, A Rinh, and Chey Kaong in Thmei Commune; Dong, Trapeang Kak, Kompong Chen, Preal Chas, Prey Pork, Chrak Puoch, Mak Prang, Mrich Kol, and Khporp Veng in Stoeng Kev Commune; Vat Ang, Vat Pou, Thmei, and Preal in Prey Khmum Commune; Bos Trabek, Bos Kroch, Khemrit, Chamka Savmav, Ang, and Sampong in Kbal Romeas Commune; Nhenh, Kon Sat, Trapeang Pring Khang Cheung, and Trapeang Pring Khang Tbong in Kon Sat Commune; Kompong Thnaot, Damnak Chambak, Trapeang Sangke, and O Krasa in O Krasa Commune; Chrey Damnam, Damnak Chang-aeu, Sbov, Kev Krasang, and Thmei villages.

We freed 180 village and commune officials and 29 people imprisoned by the Vietnamese enemy.

VODK Cites SRV's 'Deceptive Propaganda'

BK0903053591 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Station commentary: "The Vietnamese's Deceptive Propaganda on the Settlement of the Cambodian Problem Can Fool No One"]

[Text] Of late, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors have ceaselessly conducted propaganda on the settlement of the Cambodian problem, a cease-fire, and a moratorium on the so-called dispatch of aid to the warring Cambodian factions. Conspicuously, the Vietnamese have pretended to be eager to settle the Cambodian issue and to put an end to the war in Cambodia via a comprehensive, just political solution. Hearing the Hanoi Vietnamese authorities' utterances, however, people question: Who has really wanted to settle the problem comprehensively and politically and who continues to obstruct the Cambodian peace process?

1. With regard to the international community, it has for 12 years displayed its all-out efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement for the Cambodian problem. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council have held several consultative meetings to arrive at a solution for the Cambodian problem. Finally, they have scored a concrete result by hammering out the 28 August 1990 framework blueprint as the foundation for resolving the Cambodian issue via a comprehensive political solution.

The entire UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly have supported the drive of the five UN Security Council permanent members and endorsed their basic plan through resolutions 668, 45, and 45/3 [numbers as received]. Moreover, the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia together with the five UN Security Council permanent members have also jointly fleshed out the document and turned it into one of concrete measures manifested in the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

The fact that the international community continues to focus attention on seeking a way out for the Cambodian problem at a crucial time when the world has also been concerned about other problems such as the Gulf war, is clear evidence of its praiseworthy wish and intention to solve and end the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia at an early date so the Cambodian nation and people can quickly rid themselves of all kinds of suffering and misery.

2. As for our Cambodian National Resistance [CNR], it has all along proclaimed its support for the efforts of the international community, in particular those of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the Paris conference cochairmen, and the United Nations. Our CNR has announced its full acceptance and implementation of the major UN documents, especially the framework blueprint of the five UN Security Council permanent members and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement. At every international forum on the Cambodian problem and every inter-Cambodian meeting, our CNR has continued to make all kinds of major concessions. This is an example of the genuine goodwill of our CNR and National Government of Cambodia, which are willing to expeditiously close the books on the Cambodian problem via an overall political solution.

3. Only the Vietnamese and their lackey puppets oppose the international community's endeavor by openly opposing the framework document forged by the five UN Security Council permanent members and in the 26 November 1990 draft agreement. To date, the Vietnamese are continuing to act in defiance of the UN documents and maneuvering diplomatically, militarily, and politically for the purpose of further invading and occupying Cambodia forever. By all accounts, it is the Vietnamese themselves who are the stumbling block to the settlement of the Cambodian problem, creating all manner of obstacles in order to obstruct the realization of a comprehensive political solution for the Cambodian issue.

In view of the aforementioned facts, people are able to clearly see that the so-called Vietnamese statements calling for a peaceful settlement are simply examples of deceiving propaganda carried out with the intention of circumventing pressure from the world and the CNR.

The international community and our CNR and people can never allow themselves to be fooled by the deceptive maneuvers of the Hanoi authorities. For 12 years, they have increasingly seen through to the Hanoi Vietnamese authorities' true nature and the manipulative propaganda that they have used to instantaneously shield themselves. They have also come to see through their historically well-known deceiving maneuvers betraying their own promises on implementing various treaties as well as their cruel warmongering nature. As a consequence, the international community will continue to apply stronger pressure on Vietnam until it is forced to accept the full implementation of the five main UN documents. As for the CNR and the Cambodian people, they will continue to intensify their joint attack against the Vietnamese aggressors on the battlefield so as to compel them to totally accept and implement the 28 August 1990 framework blueprint of the five UN Security Council permanent members and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

Correction—SPK Criticizes China's Aid

BK1103053291

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "SPK Criticizes Chinese Aid to Khmer Rouge," published in the 11 March East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 32:

Column one, paragraph one, sentence one make read: The Cambodian people are very upset by China's announcement...(supplying indistinct words).

Column one, paragraph one, sentence one make read:...to the Khmer resistance forces until a political... (supplying indistinct words).

Column one, paragraph two, sentence one make read:...the world community and has proven that the main... (supplying indistinct words).

Column one, paragraph two, last sentence make read: Although some problems relating to the internal... (supplying indistinct word).

Column two, first partial paragraph, penultimate sentence make read:...is imperative now for all the warring Khmer factions to effect self-restraint, observe a... (supplying indistinct words).

Column two, paragraph two, only sentence make read:...26 November 1990 by the cochairmen of the... (supplying indistinct words).

Column two, paragraph three, only sentence make read:...on all other countries to continue their... (supplying indistinct words).

Indonesia

Film Talks, Trade Relations With U.S. Viewed

BK1203141791 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 27 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "To cope with the demands imposed by the MPEAA for the sake of national interests"]

[Text] Talks on the film import business between Indonesia and the United States ended on 25 February. The talks, reported to have achieved little progress, began on 22 February and were scheduled to last two days, but had to be extended for another day because the two sides were unable to reach an agreement.

Up until the last day of the meeting, no agreement was reached by the MPEAA [Motion Picture Export Association of America] and the Indonesian Film Importers Association, except that the two sides agreed to meet again in March. No date has been fixed.

At the end of the meeting, the U.S. side continued to voice its threat of launching retaliatory measures if Indonesia did not change its film import procedure. As is known, such retaliatory moves are based on that country's laws and may be imposed on Indonesia's commodity goods exported to the United States, such as plywood and textiles, which now constitute one of the largest foreign currency revenues for Indonesia.

Before we discuss this issue further, it would be useful to review the talks held since 22 February, which were preceded by a parliamentary hearing with the Indonesian Film Producers Association on 20 February and the Indonesian Motion Picture Operators Association on 21 February.

The first reaction in parliament to the 10 demands submitted by the MPEAA is easy to understand, there emerged an outpouring of nationalistic and anti-U.S. feelings due to the Americans' impudence and callous interference in the internal affairs of another country. This is especially true if we look at several rallies in various countries protesting the U.S. involvement in the Gulf. Several protests have also been held in some cities in Indonesia.

This show of feeling is understandable because the issue of the film import business involves a clash of not only economic interests, but also of value and cultural systems. It is a sufficiently sensitive issue, not only in Indonesia, but also in other parts of the world. It is fortunate that the film issue causes no significant upheaval and the society does not appear to pay any attention to it.

Besides, other reports said that there were only two, not 10 demands, namely the removal of film quota regulations and regulations governing the distribution of American films in Indonesia. Toward this end, the United States wants its film companies to have freedom to establish a film importing company in Indonesia, or at least to appoint an Indonesian company it deems suitable as its representative.

During the talks, the Indonesian delegation tried to explain to the U.S. side that there are now six companies in charge of importing and distributing U.S. films in the country. The U.S. delegation replied to this argument by saying that despite the ample number of companies, they actually belong to one group, which is monopolistic in nature.

To begin with, we should not be trapped into sentimental arguments because the issue is not simple. We must also remember that great changes have been taking place in international relations, which have in turn affected earlier concepts.

In addition, impatience will only confuse the unstable domestic film market. This is especialy true if it is linked to the domestic film industry which is still receiving protection against foreign films. Despite subsidies and promotional assistance over the last 20 years, the domestic film industry has not become stronger. It is a pity that it still voices the same complaint, namely it faces unhealthy competition from foreign films. Therefore, we should not be impatient because that will make us less objective in looking at the issue and may even cause serious mistakes.

Perhaps we should be smart in dealing with the two demands of the MPEAA to the extent that if our film importers have to make sacrifices, then the move should not affect our film industry, which has been developed for 20 years but is still struggling.

In addition, it seems that the MPEAA is ready to comply with our existing regulations, especially those governing procedures for the retail film trade. As for its demand to have its own film import and distribution office, it seems to conflict with our retail film trade. The MPEAA obviously wants to appoint its own film agent in the same manner as is practised in the automobile trade.

It appears that the U.S. delegation insists on removing what it views as monopolistic practices in the film industry—something which is legally wrong, but does exist here.

Economic interests now often influence the character of bilateral relations, which are becoming more and more interdependent. Conceptual changes in international relations often occur in this context. In this case, the term "interference in another country's internal affairs" may also be given a new meaning.

We can cite an example from the U.S.-Japan trade friction, which has led to the establishment of the Structural Impediment Initiatives [three preceding words in English] early last year, but has not produced much in the way of results thus far. The demands issued by the two sides make us review the meaning of the term "interference in another country's internal affairs".

During the negotiations, the U.S. side demanded that Japan spend more money to finance public development projects in the coming 10 years. This is clearly designed to make the Japanese Government spend more money so as to rectify the two countries' balance of payment, now in Japan's favor. But doesn't it mean the United States has interfered in the formulation of another country's budget? Worse still, the United States also asked Japan to amend its retail trade laws to enable U.S. goods to enter the country more easily.

On the other hand, Japan demanded that the United States make more serious efforts to solve its trade deficit problem. Japan also called on the United States to reduce its oil consumption by reducing the use of airplanes as a means of transportation and promoting the construction of railroad networks.

The above example is probably sufficient to show how far the term interference has been modified. We notice that the two sides have not reached a point of convergence as far as the shift of meaning is concerned as seen from the failure of the GATT talks some time ago.

Such an example must be seen in the proper perspective because there is another factor in Indonesia-U.S. trade relations, namely, the amount of money involved in the two countries' film trade is nothing compared with that of Indonesia's textile and plywood exports, which face the threat of a U.S. boycott. Such a factor has presumably influenced the talks between the two countries.

The main issue for Indonesia is its overall national interest without ignoring the special interest of its domestic film industry, which showed an increase in film production last year. The production increase made some distributors claim that overproduction had occurred, which in the end brought about negative impacts. The overproduction should have been viewed from the system and mechanism of current film distribution.

Countries in the world apparently are still seeking a suitable pattern to protect their own interests and this is not an easy task because not only political and economic interests, but also traditional and cultural values, are involved. These values are in fact the basis of a country's structure and system. There is an obvious example of this friction: The Indonesian Government does not view the film import business in this country as monopolistic, while the United States does.

The basis of the local film import and distribution system seems to be inseparable from the overall system of Indonesian trade and economy. In more explicit terms, it can be said that the government plays a major, if not dominant, role in this area.

Indonesia may now be justified to feel proud of having transnational business conglomerates, but relations between these conglomerates and the government are still unequal, unlike those in the United States. Moreover, in the current case of trade conflict with other countries, the U.S. Government seems to follow the wishes of the U.S. business groups.

We agree with the view that conflicts of interest lead to trade conflicts. Such conflicts of interest are obvious but there are still other subtle reasons that may also lead to trade conflicts. Let us hope the current minor conflict will be solved soon and will in turn contribute toward the realization of more comprehensive concepts in maintaining international relations.

Suharto Says Currency Not To Be Devalued

BK0903081791 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] The government will not devalue the country's currency in its efforts to cope with the current inflation. President Suharto said this when he met with Edi Swasono, chairman of the Indonesian Cooperatives Council, at the Bina Graha presidential office. During the meeting, Edi Swasono reported to the president on the plan to hold a meeting of the Indonesian Cooperative Council in Jakarta on 12-13 March.

Speaking to reporters, Edi Swasono quoted the head of state as saying that the public need not panic following rumors of devaluation. He said the 1986 devaluation had been a bitter experience for all, but had to be done due to the sharp fall in the global oil price.

Edi Swasono also said the president had hoped that the foster parents scheme was not of a neo-feudalistic nature, but based on a family-oriented spirit.

The cooperatives meeting is aimed at strengthening the network of cooperatives, which include both the commercial and organizational aspects of cooperatives.

Suharto Meets Visiting PRC Auditor General

BK1203132491 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] President Suharto received Lu Peijian, auditor general of the PRC Auditing Administration, who was accompanied by M. Yusuf, chairman of the State Auditing Board, at the Bina Graha Presidential Office in Jakarta this morning. Lu Peijian told newsmen that President Suharto briefed him on the administrative system and the auditing system of Indonesia. According to Lu Peijian, the auditing systems of Indonesia and the PRC have similarities that will open the way for possible friendly cooperation.

His visit to Indonesia is part of preparations for a meeting of the Association of State Auditing Institutions, or Asosai, in Beijing next May. Indonesia is currently chairman of the association.

Laos

Thai Army Chief Suchinda Visits 11-12 Mar

BK1203134491 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] At the invitation of General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of the General Staff of the Lao People's Army, General Suchinda Khraprayun, army commander and vice chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand, arrived in Vientiane yesterday morning to pay a visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

General Sisavat Keobounphan and General Suchinda Khraprayun held a consultative meeting during which they discussed several important issues relating to Lao-Thai relations such as border problems, suppression of the Lao armed rebels in exile, Lao refugees now living in Thailand, and economic cooperation.

General Suchinda Khraprayun also paid courtesy calls on His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, prime minister, and His Excellency General Khamtai Siphandon, deputy prime minister and national defense minister of the LPDR.

The meetings between the Lao leaders and the Thai guest proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship, goodneighborliness, and understanding.

General Suchinda Khraprayun and his entourage left Vientiane for a visit to Luang Prabang yesterday afternoon and returned to Thailand this afternoon.

Bilateral Agreement Struck on Sensitive Issues

BK1303101691 Vientiane KPL in English 0932 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 13 (KPL)—During the visit to Laos of Suchinda Khraprayun, army chief and vice-president of the National Peacekeeping Council of the Kingdom of Thailand, Laos and Thailand have reached an agreement on six sensitive issues of great importance for the improvement of the Lao-Thai relations.

The sides have agreed to create their common border as a border of peace and friendship. Within one week, the sides are to withdraw troops from the hot points at the border area, namely at the Thai [village of] Ban Rom Krao and Lao villages of Mai, Kang, and Savang.

Concerning the exiled armed rebels, the sides agreed to issue instructions to their respective local administrations with a view to collaborating with each other to control and disarm the groups concerned and subsequently return them to the administrative power.

On the refugee issue, the sides agreed to work with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in order to find funds to assist the refugees resettlement.

The sides, in addition, agreed to find better ways to settle the question of transportation of goods.

The side agreed to study and settle the issue regarding appropriate tax imposed on in-transit agricultural goods from Laos.

The sides unanimously agreed to dissolve the Joint Lao-Thai Committee for Cooperation and to replace it with the Lao-Thai Coordination Committee to deal with various bilateral issues in a more appropriate way.

Front for National Construction Opens Conference

BK1203120591 Vientiane KPL in English 0915 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 12 (KPL)—A 1990 annual enlarged conference of the Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC) opened here yesterday morning under the chairmanship of its president Phoumi Vongvichit, with over 300 participants.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Khamtan Thepbouali, on behalf of the central front, presented the LFNC's activities during 1990 and the orientation for 1991's activities. Facing the changes in the the world and the enemy's attempts to disrupt the unity among the Lao ethnic people, Mr. K. Thepbouali went on, the LFNC under the guidance of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party must increase its ideological activities and organize its political and ideological lectures both at central and local levels so that cadres and ethnic people understand the objectives to strenghten the LPRP's [Lao People's Revolutionary Party] leadership, promote the people's democratic regime, and resolve to fight against all the enemy's subversive schemes.

He acclaimed the LFNC's effort in performing the task of national defence and security, boosting production, improving people's living conditions, education, public health, culture and religion.

He further pointed out that the LFNC this year would have to strengthen the unity among ethnic people, introduce the national strength into the cause of national defence and construction, launch political and ideological campaigns, expand and promote the role of LFNC at all levels, promote the infrastructure construction at grass-roots, and improve the network of the LFNC at each level.

This annual enlarged conference of the central LFNC took place following four local enlarged conferences. The conference will last 3 days.

2nd Meeting of Vientiane Province Cadres Opens

BK1303053591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The second meeting of cadres of Vientiane Province was opened yesterday morning. Attending the opening ceremony as guests of honor were Somlat Chanthamat, Secretariat member and head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, and Lieutenant General Siphon Phalikhan, member of the LPRP Central Committee and secretary of the party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane Province, along with more than 150 cadres and party members from all nine districts and various organizations and enterprises attached to the provincial administration, who represented more than 2,000 full party members altogether throughout the province.

On this occasion, Khambeng Sinnavong, member of the party and administrative committees of Vientiane Province, delivered an opening speech. He said:

[Begin recording] Today we convene the second meeting of cadres from throughout the province. The meeting is held amid an atmosphere in which the world situation, in particular the situation in East Europe, has changed in a complicated manner. In our Laos, changes have also been effected in many fields, in particular in the economic, political, and social fields, in conformity with the practical conditions of the world and of Laos in the present. It is also held amid an atmosphere in which our entire party, army, and people of Vientiane Province are enthusiastically implementing the directions and tasks adopted in the first provincial meeting of cadres and in the Fourth Party Congress as well as the 51st resolution of the Party Central Committee and the 26th resolution of the provincial party committee on the vigorous turning to the grass roots to educate and train the multi-ethnic people in the political and ideological field, improve the living conditions of the people in localities and grass roots, encourage the multi-ethnic people to contribute to fulfilling the national defense and public security maintenance work, and step up campaigns to welcome the fifth party congress which will be held soon.

Amid the joyous and grand atmosphere of this meeting, our cadres remember comrade members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, comrade members of the Party Central Committee, comrade members of the provincial and district party and administrative committees, comrade party members, cadres, and revolutionary combatants as well as compatriots of various tribes throughout Vientiane Province for undergoing sacrifices in a heroic spirit in carrying out the cause of struggle to defend the country and build the popular democratic republic system in our province.

Throughout the past two years or so, our province has concentrated on building the infrastructure in all respects at the village level to prepare for the convening of party congresses at the three levels in our Vientiane Province. As the situation and conditions in our country have changed rapidly, it is necessary to adopt new directions and policies to conform with the international situation and specific points in the present. In view of this, the Political Bureau of the LPRP Central Committee has agreed to have our Vientiane Province, as well as other provinces throughout the country, hold meetings of cadres with a view to comprehensively reviewing and assessing the situation and achievements and putting forth directions and tasks for the subsequent years of our province. At the same time, the second meeting of cadres of our province will elect trustworthy delegates who are loyal to the party and the people to attend the Fifth Party Congress which will be held soon. All comrade delegates to be elected in the meeting will be those who have guaranteed the implementation of the party leadership. They will thus be worthy of the trust of the party and the compatriots of various tribes throughout our Vientiane Province.

This second meeting of cadres of our province is considered a great event in the political life of our province. It marks the opening of the path for us to march forward a new stage in the cause of struggle to defend and build the popular democratic republic system in our province. With the firm conviction that this second meeting of cadres of our Vientiane Province will be gloriously successful, on behalf of the presidium, I now would like to announce an official opening of the second meeting of cadres of Vientiane Province. [end recording]

Afterwards, Lt. Gen. Siphon Phalikhan, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the party committee and chairman of the administrative committee of Vientiane Province, took the floor to read a report on the achievements and victories recorded in each field by the entire party, army, and people in Vientiane Province over the past five years. [passage omitted]

Cooperation With China in Rattan Business

BK1203120391 Vientiane KPL in English 0920 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 12 (KPL)—Delegations of Lao Savannakhet and Chinese Guangdong Provinces have recently signed in Savannakhet a memorandum on rattan exploitation processing and distribution.

The memorandum, signed during a 3-day visit to Savannakhet by the delegation of the Guangdong economic commission led by its head of industrial and economic service, provides that Savannakhet will put 50 per cent of fixed capital in the venture, while Guangdong will provide equipment and expertise for rattan exploitation and processing.

During its visit, the delegation also met Mr. Bounhang Vorachit, secretary of the provincial party committee, chairman of the provincial administration, and Mr. Saisomphon Phomvihan, vice chairman and head of Commercial and Foreign Economic Relations Service of the province.

Philippines

Further on Aquino Remarks on Bases Talks

HK1303034191 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 13 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[By Arthur Bariuad and Dionision Tubianosa]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday reaffirmed her full trust in chief RP [Republic of the Philippines] negotiator Raul Manglapus in the light of reports that the Philippine panel had softened on its position and was now willing to accept the American compensation offer as well as give in to the U.S. demand for an access agreement to the bases beyond the phaseout period.

Manglapus, also the country's foreign secretary, returned from the United States on Sunday after failing to reconcile difference between the Philippine and U.S. positions particularly on the issues of compensation and duration of extension and access to the installations.

He flew to the U.S. for talks with ranking officials after the fifth round of bases talks ended in a stalemate last month. It was announced then that there would be no more round of talks and that further discussions would be done through the usual diplomatic channels.

On Monday, however, Manglapus said another round of talks was necessary to thresh out unresolved differences in the positions of both panels.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday called for the cancellation of the talks, saying the time has elapsed [as published] for the holding of such talks. The timeframe for the talks, it said, expired last January. The labor federation also lambasted Manglapus for allegedly giving in to American pressure.

A source close to the Philippine panel said the government had backtracked from its "hard cash" compensation demand and may yield to Washington's money offer following Manglapus' failed consultations in the U.S. last week.

The source added that the government was "willing to consider the U.S. offer" in recognition of the U.S.

government's procedural impediments in granting outright "cash grants." He stressed, however, that such a move did not mean that the Philippines would abandon the package it offered last month.

The source said Manglapus now recognized the difficulty in finding and acceptable formula that would best respond to the "hard component" of the RP package.

The U.S. offers $360 million in annual compensation which consists of $200 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF); $120 million in Economic Support Fund (ESF) and $40 million in Development Assistance (DA). The Philippine wants $825 million annually—$400 million in annual "cash grants" and $425 million in non-budgetary items.

The source explained that while the government was willing to accept the package, there must be a realistic amount which can be used to finance the country's debt reduction program. This, he said, could be realized by "mixing" the itemized package or by combining some portions of the package to achieve at least $300 million in "convertible cash."

Manglapus said Monday, that if there would be $300 million cash component, "there may be the possibility of compromise."

The information also said that if the U.S. package can be "converted to cash and can be used debt reduction, we are willing to consider it."

He pointed out that to quantify the amount, there must be bigger ESF which could be tapped to finance the debt reduction program and less foreign military financing which could not be converted to cash. He also said that "any mix that would cover $400 million is desirable."

The Philippine demand for at least $300 million in cash would be used to fund the floatation of bonds to regional partners as part of the debt buyback scheme of the government.

On Monday, Manglapus also hinted that the RP bases panel would agree to include an access agreement or arrangement in the proposed treaty which could guarantee continued American presence here beyond 1998.

The foreign secretary had repeatedly said that the proposal he presented to U.S. chief negotiator Richard Armitage—a seven-year phaseout duration and $825 million financial package, especially on the "hard cash" portion—was the "only package the Philippines can offer."

"The Secretary of Foreign Affairs is the chief negotiator for the country. We continue to have full trust in his abilities to conclude a treaty for the good of the country," Mrs Aquino said in a statement read by Press Secretary Tomas Gomez.

Malacanang reporters tried to get the President's comments on a report attributed to Manglapus which said the Philippine government might agree to allow American access to the facilities even after a seven-year phaseout period. Manglapus, however, stressed that the decision would have to be made by the next administration.

The President refused to comment on whether the possible access provision was promised on U.S. compliance to the level of compensation being demanded by the Philippine government.

At the same time, the President reiterated that the government's prime concern in dealing with the Americans was the national interest.

"It is erroneous to consider that any agreement with the United States works against the interest of the country. It is precisely the national interest and the sovereignty of the country that are being protected by a treaty between the two countries," she added.

At the same time, Mrs Aquino directed her Cabinet to explore alternative mechanism aimed at reducing the country's debts.

"I have been asked (by the President) to look for a formula which would enable us to further cut down our debts," Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said, adding that he has yet to study the proposals on the bases compensation package.

Congressman Remarks on Aquino LDP Support

HK1303044491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 13 Mar 91 pp 1, 10

[Text] President Aquino has given tacit approval to the plan of Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos to join the pro-administration Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [LDP—Struggle of Philippine Democrats], bolstering speculations that she will support the party in the 1992 elections.

This was disclosed yesterday by an LDP congressman believed to be privy to the negotiations to bring Ramos to the party.

The source said Ramos himself quoted the President as telling him to "consider the LDP" in deciding which party to join.

In fact, four other Cabinet members were scheduled to take their oath as LDP members in May. They are Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Natural Resources Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr., Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III and Labor Secretary Ruben Torres. All of them are reportedly planning to run for Congress next year.

Their membership would make the LDP the "unofficial" party of the administration. Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos and Interior Secretary Luis Santos have been LDP members since their stint in Congress.

The source said another likely recruit was Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague, who may seek a congressional seat in Tarlac.

Ramos, according to the source, has already given his word to Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., LDP secretary general, that he would join the LDP even without the assurance that he would be the party's standard bearer in the 1992 presidential election.

"I told him that anybody who wants to join us cannot expect presidential nomination to be handed to him in silver platter," the source said. "I also said that any survey can show anybody popular, but if you want to convert popularity into votes you need a political machinery."

Meanwhile, another LDP congressman said there was a move among LDP members in the House to convince businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. to throw his support behind Speaker Ramon V. Mitra in next year's presidential elections.

One of the LDP solons said yesterday "we're doing everything to discourage Danding...and give way to the Speaker."

An LDP congressman close to Mitra, Leonardo Guerrero of Cavite, told the INQUIRER the Speaker and Cojuangco "are meeting regularly."

"They are very close associates, you know," Guerero said.

The Cavite solon also disclosed that the Mitra-Peping Cojuangco tandem "is seriously being considered by a number of LDP members."

Ramos Admits Preparing for 1992 Presidential Race

HK1203103191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Mar 91

[By Eloi Aquino]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos admitted that he is now preparing for the 1992 presidential elections. Ramos, who is frequently referred to as the possible administration candidate in the 1992 presidential polls, said he was convinced by the results of the surveys which showed that his candidacy might be fruitful. In his speech before the League of Governors in Iloilo City last Sunday, Ramos stressed, however, that he has not yet made any irrevocable decision. According to him, he has not made a decision because he has a lot of work to do at the defense department. He must carry on with his present job because this is his priority. Ramos said he will not deny he is making some preparations but added that his political moves are only exploratory. He also admitted he has been courted by some leaders of the Struggle of Pilipino Democrats like Senator Neptali Gonzales, Speaker Ramon Mitra, and Congressman Jose Cojuangco, but he stressed that he will wait for President Aquino's advice as to which party to join. Ramos emphasized that come the right time, he will disclose his move.

Senators View Poll Fraud Study With 'Suspicion'

HK1303034391 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 91 pp 1, 9

[By Johanna Son]

[Text] A group of senators yesterday viewed with suspicion the UP [University of the Philippines] study alleging fraud in the 1987 senatorial polls, including its funding by three American groups.

The senators' theories, which emerged during two hours of debate, linked the study by UP Professor Luzviminda Tancangco to efforts to attack new Commission on Elections (Comelec) commissioner Christian Monsod and to discredit the Senate as voting nears on a new bases treaty.

Majority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr. charged that three American organizations funded the study apparently in order "to destory the image of the Senate.

He spoke of reports that the three-year study was made under a grant by the Asia Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the U.S. government-run United States Information Service (USIS).

Guingona was reacting to a privilege speech by Senate Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile, who claimed that the UP study was "funded by the people."

"We should look behind the motive, behind the generosity of these three organizations," Guingona said.

Enrile—who admitted that he met Tancangco before her Sunday press briefing upon Sen. Joseph Estrada's introduction—said the U.S. groups were here "because they want to preserve democracy."

Senators Wigberto Tanada, Rene Saguisag, Jovito Salonga and Ernesto Maceda also were skeptical.

Tanada said: "Masyadong fantastic ang timing. [The timing is fantastic.] We can't rule out a connection to the U.S. bases. Bakit ba tuwing magbobotohan na sa bases sinisiraan ang Senado?" [Why is it that whenever the Senate will vote on the bases, criticisms surface?] asked Sen. Rene Saguisag.

Maceda elicited from Enrile the admission that he and Estrada saw Tancangco at the Senate last week, when she asked them for help in releasing the report.

Enrile quoted Tancangco as saying she wanted to have the study published as a book, but that "because of the appointment of Christian Monsod they owe it to the people to make this public."

Maceda said the study was clearly timed to provide ammunition against Monsod, who was Namfrel [National Citizens Movement for Free Elections] chairman in 1987.

Salonga had his own doubts, pointing out that he had heard the fraud claims two years ago from Raul De Guzman, former dean of the UP college of public administration.

De Guzman is Estrada's brother-in-law. Both Estrada and Enrile, who ran under the opposition banner in 1987, were presented the study on Sunday.

"Why is it only now that these (old) charges are being ventilated?" Salonga asked.

Enrile defended Tancangco's integrity, saying the Senate investigation ought to look into the basis of the UP study's findings.

Earlier, Sen. John Osmena asked Sen. Neptali Gonzales, chairman of the electoral reforms committee that will conduct the inquiry, to subpoena all Comelec records on the 1987 senatorial polls.

These documents could refute Tancangco's charges, Osmena said, as he urged the Senate to act quickly "so that we may forestall an erosion of public confidence in our democratic processes."

Meanwhile, the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), which was named by Tancangco as having orchestrated the poll fraud, denounced her study as "seriously flawed in its method of sampling, statistical treatment and data analysis."

Former Supreme Court justice Jose Y. Feria, Namfrel national chairman, said that Tancangco's research methodology did not do justice to the "highest standards of the UP." He also expressed appreciation for the commitment of UP President Jose Abueva to allow Namfrel's rebuttal to be published together with Tancangco's study.

Columnist Views Poll Fraud

HK1303040191 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 13 Mar 91 p 10

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "The crime against GAD (Grand Alliance for Democracy)"]

[Text] The study released last Sunday by a team of academics headed by Professor Luzviminda Tancangco of the UP [University of the Philippines] College of Public Administration on the massive cheating perpetrated against the Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) candidates in the 1987 senatorial elections will not by itself unseat the senators who were "elected" by fraud. Neither will it install the GAD candidates who were robbed of their seats. But it blasts to tiny shreds the moral pretensions of the Aquino government.

Despite Mrs. Aquino's self-serving denial of the unprecedented high-tech fraud documented by the study, the evidence is overwhelming. After years of being lied to and taken for idiots and fools, the more thoughtful among our people are no longer in the mood to accept at face value any simple washing of hands. They have been betrayed so many times, they know now what they did not know before. They know that the Tancangco report confirms and validates what we four years ago denounced at EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] and in the media, but which many dismissed as the usual chant of discredited politicians.

As GAD chairman, I was tear-gassed at EDSA while leading one of the protest-marches against the fraudulent elections. "Philippine Report," a white paper I authored and released in Manila and Washington in July of 1987, was dismissed as sour grapes from a bunch of poor losers by all, except a few who thought it deserved a hearing.

Seeing a copy of the report for the first time at a conference in Washington, a staff member of the U.S. State Department dismissed it contemptuously as a fanciful document. This was the same attitude of a number of American "Philippinists" at the conference. The only serious expression of concern was voiced by Sen. Jesse Helms, former chairman of the Senate committee on foreign relations, and a few others.

The Tancangco report lays to rest all that bias against our just claim. The administration cannot possibly impugn Prof. Tancangco's motives or credentials, for she has never been identified with the opposition. A former Namfrel (National Movement for Free Elections) volunteer, she wrote the Namfrel report on the 1986 elections. And she went through mountains of data to arrive at her conclusions in the present paper. It is no coincidence that she arrives at the same conclusion we arrived at in 1987.

This is what we saw then.

First of all, the election rules were all tailored to favor the administration.

In the beginning, GAD demanded certain reforms to ensure the holding of clean elections. The administration first stonewalled and then turned down the demands at the last hour, prompting GAD to seriously consider the value of taking part in the elections. In the end, GAD decided to participate, but at a very serious disadvantage.

Party representation in the board of registration, board of inspectors, board of canvassers, and the committee on printing, storage and distribution of official ballots and election returns was eliminated. And just any printer was allowed to print the electoral forms. The Comelec [Commission of Elections] imported 250 tons of paper for official ballots, against an actual requirement of only 190 tons. Months after the elections, the Comelec could still not account for the 60-ton difference. As for the printed forms, they did not carry machine-validated serial numbers as required by law, making them highly vulnerable to tampering.

Confusion and chaos reigned at the polls. Most polling precincts did not carry a listing of candidates. Long delays attended the delivery of election forms. Administration officials were allowed to campaign and to freely distribute banned materials inside voting precincts.

There was widespread manipulation of the votes, notably by Namfrel, with absolutely absurd results. Although there were only 24 senators to be elected, in Regions III and IV, the voters chose an average of 46 senators each; in Region VI, 33; in Region X, 34. Nationwide, each voter chose an average of 25.12

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In these four regions, the administration candidates polled votes well in excess of 100 percent of all registered voters, not simply of voters that voted, at some point of the count. The figures for Region III are illustrative.

Salonga	163.94
Aquino	164.87
Mercado	163.20
Angara	152.33
Osmena	137.90
Romulo	167.58
Saguisag	155.64
Shahani	148.38
Lina	157.01
Gonzales	128.27
Tanada	141.47
Alvarez	141.11
Laurel	130.42
Guingona	134.02
Manglapus	131.47
Paterno	133.46
Ziga	108.53
Maceda	128.15
Pimentel	130.19
Herrera	114.55
Tamano	104.42
Rasul	107.61

Months before the formation of senatorial tickets, we had begun hearing the absolutely absurd idea that only two opposition candidates would win. Campaigning for a ticket dominated by non- entities, Mrs Aquino asked the nation not to elect a single senator from the opposition. On the eve of the elections, visiting American firemen were telling our friends at dinner that only two actors—Joseph Erap Estraeda and Roman Revilla—would make it. And but for a serious mixup in the reading of Revilla's name, he would have made it to the Senate, at the expense of Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, EDSA's main character.

Despite Enrile's popular campaign, he was clearly destined to lose—until Sen Helms, in response to our presentation in Washington, branded the Supreme Court, which until then had not acted on Enrile's petition to be declared winner, "a rubber stamp of the Aquino government." Within days of that statement, the Court allowed Enrile to take the 24th senatorial berth. I have always thought there was a causal, not simply chronological, relationship between the Supreme Court decision and Helms' statement.

The evidence shows that the electoral theft of 1987 was part of a grand design to perpetuate the new order under Mrs Aquino and extinguish the opposition. This first became clear in writing the new Constitution. Not only did the appointive constitutional commission give Mrs Aquino a term extending to June 30, 1992 without having to win an election, it also fully emasculated the electoral process by removing from the opposition the right to be represented in board of registration, board of canvassers and board of inspectors. With this right gone, the opposition fell wholly at the mercy of the administration and its "constitutional officers."

Fairly or unfairly, I have never been able to look at all this mischief without seeing the shadow of the likes of Christian Monsod, former Namfrel top dog and now Mrs Aquino's nominee as Comelec chairman. They are the people who must be made to account for 1987. The Tancangco report obliges the Commission on Appointments to inquire into Monsod's possible involvement in the 1987 fraud before it acts on his confirmation.

Aquino Promotes Top Police Officials

HK0903060491 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino promoted some top ranking Philippine National Police [PNP] officers. According to a statement from Camp Crame, PNP Chief Cesar Nazareno was named director general, equivalent to a four star rank; while his deputies Raul Imperial and Manny Roxas were appointed deputy director generals, equivalent to a lieutenant general in the military. Imperial was named the PNP deputy chief for administration, while Roxas was named deputy for operations. Nazareno also appointed Superintendent Enrique Bulan as the elite PNP Special Action Force director. Bulan, previously the PNP director for intelligence, was replaced by Chief Superintendent Gerardo Flores. Flores was the former PNP directorial staff chief. Nazareno also announced the appointment of Senior Superintendent Manuel Suarez as the chief of the PNP supervisory unit for security and investigation agencies. He was succeeded by Superintendent Demetrio Raymundo as chief of PNP administrative affairs.

Communist-Young Officer's Union Link Considered

HK1303033991 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 13 Mar 91 p 6

[By Dave Veridiano]

[Text] The Political Bureau of the out-lawed Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] is considering a possible tieup with the rightist Young Officer's Union [YOU], a Philippine National Police [PNP] intelligence report said.

The report sent to PNP Director General Cesar P. Nazareno said that the CPP Politburo met sometime last year and approved a possible teiup with YOU, a rebel group within the Armed Forces.

The intelligence report based on captured CPP documents said the Politburo decision was based on the principle that "the party is open to tactical alliances with sections of reactionary forces who are not known diehards, who are open to the meaningful interest of the people, and who are ready to fight primary agents of imperialist interests and other pillars of reaction."

The report said the CPP "is averse to a tieup with the Revolutionary Alliance of the Masses (RAM) but may be sympathetic to the YOU because of the latter's anti-US stance and its Filipino ideology."

Military rebels had earlier indicated that "they are ready to talk with the CPP-led National Democratic Front.

The document said among the possible "help" that the CPP may do for the YOU include:

Maintaining a "passive defense position" in case of a coup attempt.

Launching of independent military actions intended to strengthen the CPP-NPA [New People's Army] during coup attempts.

Forging a tactical alliance with the YOU.

According to the same captured documents, the CPP politburo also set the changes that the underground movement would take in pursuing its "protracted people's war."

The CPP Politburo stressed that "the combination of widespread guerrilla warfare, some elements of regular warfare and widespread revolutionary mass movements and people's uprising" for the seizure of political power.

It also said that "the revolutionary mass movements and people's struggles leading to uprisings aside from giving birth to a gargantuan people's force would also develop the capacity of the mass to defend themselves and to intervene in the form of urban uprisings in times of political convulsions of the dying order."

Thailand

Army Commander Suchinda Returns From Laos

BK1203134391 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Interview with Army Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun by unidentified reporters at Air Force Headquarters Airport upon his return from Laos on 12 March—recorded]

[Text] [Suchinda] After my arrival, I met with His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan about the border area where Thai and Lao forces have been deployed, facing each other for some time. I suggested that the deployment of our troops serves no useful purpose; it only creates economic problems. As it turns out, we agreed that both of our forces will be withdrawn. There was a previous plan to negotiate on this issue, but we simply came to agreement with each other. His Excellency Kaysone agreed with our proposal and said he will inform Excellencies Kamtai and Sisavat of our intention.

In Luang Prabang, General Sisavat held negotiations. Our talks proceeded well and it was agreed that troops from both sides will be completely withdrawn from all disputed areas on the Thai-Lao border. From now on there will be no use of military force in any border disputes between the two countries. This is out of regard for the brotherly relations between the two countries. There is no benefit in the use of military force. If any dispute should arise, negotiations will be used to settle it at the government or local level as appropriate. Both sides gave assurances that military forces will no longer be used against each other.

[Reporter] Does this include the dispute at Ban Romklao?

[Suchinda] The Ban Romklao dispute is included. Regarding Ban Romklao, we said in effect that the disputed area, which was covered by forest and mountains, has very little value, less than 1,000 baht per rai. There was no point in making a big issue out of it. Economic cooperation between Thailand and Laos is much more important, because it could generate billions of baht. Both sides agreed on this point. The committee concerned will have to continue to negotiate over the disputed area. But while no settlement has been reached, the area will be left as it is. That is, the indigenous people—Thai or Lao, they do not distinguish themselves because they regard each other as brothers—will be allowed to remain undisturbed. This principle applies to every disputed area.

[Reporter] The Lao side agreed with this proposal, is that right?

[Suchinda] It agreed in every aspect.

[Reporter] When will the withdrawal take place?

[Suchinda] An order for withdrawal of our troops will be made tomorrow. The Lao side will do the same.

Chatchai, Wife Leave for Switzerland 12 Mar

BK1303011891 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Deposed prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan left Thailand late last night for England on the first leg of his "holiday" journey to Switzerland following the bloodless coup of February 23.

Gen Chatchai, accompanied by his wife Thanphuying Bunruan, her maid and two personal secretaries, was escorted from his home in a convoy of Air Force security vehicles which deliverd him directly to the Thai International plane at Don Muang Airport.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun boarded the plane to say farewell to the deposed premier.

Mr Anan left the plane five minutes later, and it took off at 11.50 p.m.

Also at the airport to see Gen Chatchai off were National Peacekeeping Council chairman Sunthon Khongsomphong, Army commander- in-chief Suchinda Khraprayun and Air Force commander-in-chief Kaset Rotchananin.

About 20 Air Force Military Police and 10 plainclothes security men guarded the airport before and during Gen Chatchai's arrival there, while other units of the Air Force Security Force patrolled the airport in cars.

Journalists, prohibited from getting near the deposed premier, sneaked over the fence 300 metres from the plane.

Some women reporters shouted "Na Chat" (uncle Chat) to bid goodbye. Others were in tears.

Earlier last night, Gen Chatchai's Ratchakhru home, which was the centre of power during his two-and-a-half-year rule, came back to life for the first time since the military takeover.

A large number of close family members, Chat Thai party associates, businessmen, a number of new Cabinet ministers led by Prime Minister Anan, and members of the deposed premier's toppled government gave Gen Chatchai a hearty round of applause as his car slowly left his home shortly before 11 p.m.

Gen Chatchai lowered his car window to bid farewell to a group of waving reporters.

His wife was seen sitting beside him in the back of his Volvo with tears welling in her eyes.

Appearing in front of his home along with Thanphuying Bunruan and Prime Minister Anan shortly before his departure to bid farewell to the mass media, Gen Chatchai said he could not say how long his overseas trip would last.

"My trip abroad will help make the world understand better what the situation in Thailand is like," Gen Chatchai said.

The former prime minister said that he was deeply gratified by His Majesty the King's order honouring him with the distinguished Rattana Waraphon Order of Merit.

He said, however, he was still unsure if he would be able to return to personally receive the royal decoration on April 12. Gen Chatchai said he intended to stay in England for some time before moving on to Switzerland because he had many friends in Britain.

He admitted he had been very tired while serving as prime minister but he had regained his strength and was ready to travel.

Asked by reporters how he felt about having to leave the country after the political change, Gen Chatchai said he felt "alright", because he was used to making frequent trips.

"I hope there won't be a hijack," he joked.

Military sources denied that the security escort had been arranged for Gen Chatchai out of concern that he might refuse to leave the country.

The security escort had been arranged to ensure his safety on his way out of the country, the sources said.

The Air Force security unit was led by Assistant Air Force Chief-of-Staff Air Marshal Prachum Saisiri.

Gen Chatchai's first destination was London where he was expected to spend some time before travelling on to Switzerland where the Chunhawan family has a home in Geneva.

Except for a brief visit to former prime minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot, Gen Chatchai spent most of yesterday at home preparing for his journey.

He had dinner with close relatives before he left last night.

The army of reporters who turned up at the Soi Ratchakhru residence to report on Gen Chatchai's departure were barred from entering the house.

Gen Chatchai was expected to be joined in Switzerland by his son, Kraisak, who left the country after the coup.

After his release from military detention on Saturday, Gen Chatchai announced that he would wash his hands of politics and would holiday in Switzerland.

Talking to a group of reporters outside his home on Monday night, Gen Chatchai confirmed his travel plans and invited journalists to visit him if they happened to pass by Switzerland.

Gen Chatchai said that he was writing an autobiography which would take readers from his birth to the day he was ousted as prime minister.

He said he was pleased that he had to leave the job at the age of 71 because he still had some time left in his life to relax.

"It's better than leaving and being sent immediately to the ICU [intensive care unit]," he said.

Talking about his arrest when the military seized power, Gen Cahtchai said it was the second time in his life that he had a gun pointed to his head.

The first time was when he negotiated with the "Black September" guerrillas during the hostage drama at the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok in 1972.

Gen Chatchai quoted an old saying that "when there is a second time, there usually will be a third time".

He did not elaborate.

Minister Fetes Envoys, Notes Cambodian Issue

BK1203135191 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry at noon today, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin hosted a luncheon for members of the diplomatic corps to introduce himself and brief them on the new government's foreign policy. According to Wichian Watthanakhun, the deputy foreign minister, the Foreign Ministry's urgent tasks, in addition to improving the country's image following the necessary power takeover by the National Peacekeeping Council and its subsequent actions aimed at returning the country to democracy, are to foster confidence within foreign countries in their relations and cooperation with Thailand, particularly in the economic, trade, and investment areas, by emphasizing that Thailand continues to practice free trade and guarantees foreign investment.

Wichian said another urgent task concerns the Thai work force abroad, particularly in the Middle East. The restoration of Kuwait will follow the end of the war in the Persian Gulf, therefore, a diplomatic mission will be posted to Kuwait as soon as possible to preserve Thai interests by trying to promote opportunities for Thai workers in Kuwait and Thai exports to Kuwait and other Middle East countries.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Asa disclosed today that the Foreign Ministry will send a team to study the situation in Kuwait. If the situation has been normalized, Thailand will assign an ambassador to that country quickly. He said Thailand is seeking to reestablish contact with Kuwait in order to send Thai workers to help in the post-war restoration and in order to explore trade contracts with that country.

On the Cambodian problem, Asa said everything depends on how eager the four Cambodian factions are. There is a limitation to Thailand's assistance because Thailand cannot interfere in Cambodian internal affairs. On organizing a meeting of the four Cambodian factions in Thailand, Thailand is ready to talk with any party on this issue if asked, but it will not be the party initiating such a meeting.

Prime Minister Receives ASEAN, PRC Envoys

BK1203134991 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] At 1030 today at Government House, ambassadors of ASEAN countries paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. The prominent parts of their conversation could be summed up as follows: The ambassadors conveyed congratulations from their respective governments and leaders on Anan's appointment as civilian prime minister and on the fact that most cabinet members are also civilians. They also gave him moral support for his national administration tasks. The prime minister informed the ambassadors that he would try to strengthen the already good relations between Thailand and the ASEAN countries and to expand political and economic relations. He thanked the ASEAN governments for their good wishes.

At 1100, Chinese Ambassador Li Shichun called on the prime minister and said it was a great honor for his government to have an opportunity to receive Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon during her visit to Beijing between 23 and 25 March. He said Chinese President Yang Shangkun will make a visit to Thailand as a guest of his majesty the king, which will further strengthen Sino-Thai relations. The prime minister asked the ambassador to convey his good wishes and regards to Chinese Premier Li Peng.

PRC's Li Peng Congratulates Prime Minister Anan

BK1203080391 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 12 Mar 91 p 4

[Text of PRC Premier Li Peng's message to Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun]

[Text] Your Excellency Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand:

On the occasion of your excellency's appointment as prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, I would like to extend my warm congratulations and best wishes. The Chinese Government has attached importance to the Sino-Thai friendly relations and cooperation. I believe these friendly relations and cooperation will be furthered strengthened and developed.

I wish the Kingdom of Thailand prosperity and its people happiness.

Li Peng, prime minister of the State Council of PRC

Dated: 6 March, 1991

PRC Foreign Minister Congratulates Counterpart

BK1203092891 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 12 Mar 91 p 4

[Text of PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen's message to Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin]

[Text] Your Excellency Asa Sarasin, minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand:

I am pleased to learn about your excellency's appointment as minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. I would like to extend my warm congratulations and best wishes.

I hope and believe that I will closely cooperate with your excellency to further strengthen and develop the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Thailand.

[Signed] Qian Qichen, PRC minister of foreign affairs

Dated: 7 March, 1991

Sunthon Meets SRV Envoy, Discusses Administration

BK1203145191 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, supreme commander and chairman of the National Peacekeeping Assembly [NPA], received Nguyen Tran, Vietnam's ambassador to Thailand, who paid him a courtesy call to offer congratulations following the administrative takeover by the NPA and the new government. The two persons exchanged views on general topics toward promoting mutual good understanding.

Gen. Sunthon later received groups of people, including members of the Tak Provincial Council and the Akson Witthaya Association. They expressed their support for the NPA and also presented aid for the victims of recent fires.

During an interview with reporters, Gen. Sunthon said that the NPA will present its views and opinions to the government for further action. This will include suggestions involving social conditions, food prices, and traffic problems. The NPA will propose both short- and long-term plans to deal with those problems. The NPA chairman said that the NPA will use its power to back up the government's policies enabling more effective implementation and enforcement of those policies.

Junta Vows Not To Stack Assembly With Officers

BK1303033391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Mar 91 p A3

[By Sorrayuth Suthatsanachinda]

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, responding to criticism against the military's plan to put its men in an interim National Assembly, said yesterday the number of armed forces officers in the would-be legislative body would not be "ugly".

"We have not counted how many soldiers would be appointed. But the number will not be ugly," said Sunthon, chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), which seized power from the elected Chatchai government last month.

Sunthon said the NPKC was listening to public opinion regarding the formation of the National Assembly.

"The more opinions, the better," the military chief said.

The provisional assembly, expected to be formed this week by the NPKC and to include a substantial number of senior military officers, will be responsible for adopting a permanent Constitution to pave the way for a general election, due within 14 months.

Critics have cautioned that the military should not fill the interim legislative body with many people who tended to comply with the armed forces' political thinking.

A Chat Thai Party member yesterday called for participation by the public and political parties in the drafting of a new Constitution.

"There is no way we can get a fully democratic Constitution unless public organizations and political parties are allowed to participate in the drafting process," said former Chachoengsao MP [member of parliament] Chaturon Chaisaeng.

The NPKC has claimed that the current political situation warrants the presence of senior soldiers in the National Assembly.

"To me everything is very normal now. There is no sign of disorder at all," Chaturon said.

The NPKC has maintained the martial law imposed immediately afer the coup on Feb 23, saying that "underground elements" were trying to create unrest in the country.

The military council has promised that the next Constitution would make it more difficult for politicians to buy their way into Parliament. It has also floated the proposal of separating the legislative and executive branches.

Chaturon said while it was undeniable that the NPKC was still responsible for the country's security affairs, drafting a new Constitution was "completely a different matter".

"The drafting of a Constitution has nothing to do with keeping law and order. The National Assembly is not a peacekeeping authority," the Chat Thai member said.

He said qualified people from various fields should be appointed to the National Assembly in the right proportion.

"The Constitution is not only concerned with the election; it also deals with people's lives, their liberty," Chaturon said.

He stressed that a military-dominated National Assembly would make people doubt whether it could produce a democratic Constitution, especially when post-coup freedom of expression is limited.

"To make a democratic Constitution, people must have freedom first," he said.

The formation of the interim National Assembly is required under the NPKC's provisional Constitution which maintains the military council's broad power in the run-up to the general election.

Gen Sunthon yesterday promised that the NPKC would not assert its influence in the drafting of policies of the caretaker government formed last week. The provisional Constitution allows participation of the NPKC in policy formulation.

Editorial Views New Government Spokesperson

BK1303041991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Can Ladawan Bridge the Information Gap?"]

[Text] In his recent television interview, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has emphasised the importance of his Government communicating with people at the grassroots level. Apparently realising that many of his Cabinet ministers are technocrats and professionals bearing doctorate degrees, and aware of the fact that they are not the elected representatives of the people, he stressed that they must have their feet on the ground—not only in Bangkok but also in the rural countryside. This stated intention to keep an effective channel of communication between the caretaker Government and the public appears to be one of the prime reasons behind the prime minister's decision to appoint youthful television announcer Ladawan Wongsiwong as the government spokesperson.

Insofar as communicating the government's performance to the populace through various branches of the mass media is concerned, Mrs Ladawan can probably do a satisfactory job. Through her previous engagements as a television reporter and newscaster, she had proven herself to be an effective communicator, particularly on environmental issues. She also possesses a charming personality that could work to her and the Government's advantage on the TV screens. In announcing her appointment on Monday, the prime minister also said he wanted to reduce the generation gap between the Cabinet and people of the "new generation." The spokesperson's post required someone who is familiar with the people of the new generation and who is interested in problems which would occur in the future, the prime minister said.

But above the role of a communicator, questions are raised in press circles over how qualified the new spokesperson is in articulating crucial state affairs, be they political or economic, on behalf of the Government. In the Western context, the job of government spokesman is considered an important position and anyone filling the post must be knowledgeable enough to handle questions on virtually any subject matter. The job calls for a delicate balance between propagating the government's interests on the one hand and disseminating information that is of interest to and affects the well-being of the public on the other.

Thailand of course has its own unique way of doing things and the government spokesperson here does not necessarily have to emulate the model of, say, the White House spokesman. Nonetheless, the job calls for at least a fair degree of understanding on crucial political, economic and social policy matters to enable appropriate responses to press questions. The international dimension also has to be taken into consideration. Since Bangkok has grown to become an important regional centre for a plethora of international news organisations, the spokesperson should, ideally, also be able to handle the horde of inquisitive foreign newshounds who are based here. This is essential because the government spokesperson sits in on Cabinet meetings and is privy to policy matters whereas the Foreign Ministry spokesman does not enjoy the same privilege.

It is understood that Mrs Ladawan will get special support and guidance from experienced hands such as former spokesmen Suwit Yotmani (who is now deputy secretary general to the prime minister) and Michai Wirawaithaya (who is appointed a minister attached to the PM's [Prime Minister's] Office). In fairness to her and the government, she should also be given a chance to prove herself before any judgment on her capability is passed. But she should waste no time in acquiring the various necessary qualifications of a spokesperson. In the final analysis, she, as well as the government leadership, should ensure that the public is kept fully abreast of all pertinent developments during this crucial transitional period.

Envoy to U.S. Remarks on Trade Disputes

BK1303031391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Mar 91 p A2

[Text] There are strong indications from Washington that the United States will give Thailand another chance to show its willingness to tackle bilateral trade disputes before the US Trade Representative starts a country review on Thailand in April, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Thai Ambassador to Washington Witthaya Wetchachiwa quoted a US embassy official as saying that Thailand might be excluded from the priority trade watch list. In the worst-case scenario, he said, the United States might simply keep Thailand on the watch list.

He also expressed strong optimism that positive political developments in Thailand would speed up the passage and enforcement of necessary legislation that could improve Thai-US economic relations.

Numerous bilateral economic problems may soon be resolved as the Anan administration is likely to receive cooperation from the national assembly which is being formed, he said.

There has been speculation that Thailand's negotiating position could be undermined because of last month's coup.

But Witthaya felt that a positive outcome of the coup could be a more effective decision-making process. He cited the example of quick passage of laws after Field Marshal Thanom Kittikhachon set up a National Executive Committee in 1971.

The legal process is expected to be free from political interfernce in the interim period, the ambassador said.

However, he cautioned that Thailand's objective should not be interpreted by the United States to mean that "we are going to succumb to every demand in exchange for removal from the watch list".

Among the issues pending the last Parliamentary session was an amended version of the trademark law.

Thailand has told the US that it would submit the draft revision of the patent act to the House of Representatives in the May session. This matter has now been rendered moot because of the coup.

According to Witthaya, there are two possibilities for resolving the deadlock—either to leave the decisions on related issues to the National Peacekeeping Council or to the National Assembly.

The April country review by the US Trade Representative will determine whether or not Thailand will remain on the "priority watch lisit" of the US Trade Act, subject to retaliation if no satisfactory improvement is made in problem areas.

Thailand and seven other contries have been on the watch list since 1989 for what the US alleges is insufficient and inadequate intellectual property protection.

The ambassador said the appointment of a civilian government and the release of former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan and his aides in a short period after the coup have "more or less" restored US confidence in Thailand.

Remarks on Cambodian Issue

BK1303025391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 March 91 p A2

[From the Regional Desk]

[Text] Thailand and the United States will discuss and make a full review of their cooperation in working to resolve the Cambodian problem during the visit to Thailand of a senior US official this weekend, Thai Ambassador to Washington Witthaya Wetchachiwa said yesterday.

US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon is scheduled to arrive here on Saturday [16 March] for a three-day official visit, during which he will meet Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin.

Solomon's visit will provide both sides an opportunity to reassure each other of their common approach towards regional problems, said Witthaya, who is awaiting official appointment as the new Foreign Ministry permanent secretary.

The review and the discussion will "reassure (both Thailand and the United States) that they are on the same course," the Thai envoy said without elaborating.

Witthaya said the US assistant secretary, through US Ambassador to Thailand Daniel O'Donohue, had expressed his wish to discuss the 11-year-old Cambodian conflict during his stay here.

The discussions will likely bring Thailand closer to the current policy being taken by the United States, he said.

Currently the Foreign Ministry is holding consultations with the National Peace-keeping Council (NPKC), the military junta which toppled the elected government of Chatchai Chunhawan last month, and the National Security Council to formulate a "clear" position on Cambodia.

"The Thai position is likely to be set within a few days," he said.

Solomon, who is currently in China, will hold discussions on the Cambodian issue with Asa on March 17, and pay a courtesy call on Premier Anan the following day.

The US assistant secretary is expected to have discussed the Cambodian problem with senior Chinese leaders in Beiing as well as Cambodian resistance leaders who are currently gathering there for meetings.

The review of Thai-US cooperation on Cambodia was needed after political changes in Thailand following the military coup on Feb 23, said Witthaya.

The ambassador said Solomon's trip would be a positive" gesture and a good indication that "everything (in Thai-US relations) is back to normal, adding that he believed bilateral ties would be strengthened.

Witthaya said Washington had deplored the toppling of an elected civilian government by the military but later was surprised and impressed by what it called "quicker than expected" Thailand's step-by-step measures to restore democracy.

He quoted the latest report by the Thai embassy in Washington stating that the US administration was very encouraged by the military junta's move in setting up a civilian government and the release of ex-premier Chatchai from custody.

"Our first reaction to the coup was quite strong indeed," Witthaya quoted the report stating a senior US official as making a comment on Washington's cutting $16.4 million in grant aid to Thailand after the coup.

Solomon, said Witthaya, considered it timely to pursue bilateral cooperation on the Cambodian conflict, and added that the visit was a reply to his request that the US assistant secretary should come to Thailand after a caretaker government as installed.

Witthaya said other issues of mutual interest including the regional situation were likely to be raised during Solomon's meeting with Asa.

Thai-US economic cooperation would also be raised in the talks, he said.

New Market at Cambodian Border To Open in Apr

BK1303034191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Mar 91 p A3

[Text] Prachin Buri—A border market in Tambon Tha Kham in Arayaprathet district has been closed and a new market will be opened early next month in Tambon Khlong Nam Sai to facilitate cross-border trade between Thais and Cambodians.

The decision to close the market at Ban Khok Sabaeng and open a new one at Ban Khlong Luk was adopted yesterday at a meeting of representatives from the Burapha Task Force, Local Administration, Police and Customs departments.

The officials also decided to open a border pass at Ban Nong Sua Tai in Tambon Khlong Nam Sai of the district, opposite a Cambodian area controlled by Khmer Rouge troops, an informed source said.

Aranyaprathet District chief Ditsayabun Siriphanit said last month that authorities would change the marketplace for fear that the initial site would create an "untimely" trade boom that could draw international criticism.

The source said yesterday officials will use a 70-rai plot of land near Ban Khlong Luk for the new market. The Prachin Buri administration has allocated Bt [Baht] 300,000 for the plan to create a border marketplace in the village area, according to the source.

Military officiers from the 12th infantry division currently prohibit Thai villagers from entering the closed market at Ban Khok Sabaeng and are instructing Cambodian traders to trade at the new market at Ban Khlong Luk instead.

Pakistan Emerges as Major Rival to Rice Exports

BK1303050691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Mar 91 p 19

[Text] Pakistan has become an aggressive rival of Thailand in rice exports this year, selling its rice on the world market at about $75-80 a ton lower than equivalent-grade Thai rice.

Apart from trying to control medium- and low-quality rice sales in West Africa through some international rice brokers, the Paksitani Government has attracted a market in the Middle East by offering to sell low-priced rice.

An informed source in the Rice Exporters' Association told BUSINESS POST the Pakistani Government last month sold 400,000 tons of Basmati rice to Iran at only $365 per ton C&F [cost and freight].

In selling the cereal at these price levels, it was competing with high-grade Thai rice which had been selling at about $320-325 per ton FOB [Free on Board].

"If the prices of Basmati and high-grade rice are at the same level, middle East buyers are likely to purchase Basmati rice more than Thai rice," the source said.

He said last week Pakistan clinched another large deal with the Iranian Government to sell 50,000 tons of medium-grade rice at only $265 per ton C&F.

He added that the Pakistani Government also was negotating to sell an extra 100,000 tons of its rice to Iran.

"It is expected that some shipments of its rice will be re-sold to Iraq which has been facing a shortage situation after the ceasefire in the Gulf war," he said.

At the same time, the Pakistani Government has an aggressive plan to open international biddings for the sale of more than 600,000 tons of meedium- and low-grade rice in the first half of this year.

At a tender on February 28, continental Overseas Corp and Cargill, two well-known American international rice brokers, were each awarded 25,000 tons of medium- and low-grade rice at $203.50- 220.25 per ton FOB.

A further 50,000 tons of 15-20 percent white rice were tendered for yesterday, and another bidding will be opened at the end of this month with 50,000 tons of its rice.

The source said the Pakistani Government had decided to sell its rice at such low prices because the country had a demand for hard currencies, and it was believed to have an export surplus of more than one million tons for this year.

In the meantime, loading in Pakistan has improved considerably with no significant congestion at its port.

The source expects Thai rice exports to be seriously affected by Pakistan's price-cutting because most rice exporters are afraid to compete with Pakistan by committing themselves to large deals with foreign buyers at low prices.

He urged the Commerce Ministry to adopt an "offensive strategy" to help rice exporters compete with Pakistan.

He said Vietanm was not a major competitor of Thai rice exporters this year because indications were that Vietnam would not be an aggresssive seller in the short term due to a poor crop.

The source said so far the Commerce Ministry still had more than 300,000 tons of 25 percent white rice in its stock, and this volume should be used to compete with Pakistan for the moment.

He noted that the military coup on February 23 had created speculation about the rice policy of the new government, and this had caused the market to decline during the past two weeks, but so far there were no significant measures to push up local prices.

Vietnam

USSR Supports Vietnam's Stance on Cambodia

BK1203152591 Hanoi VNA in English 1448 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 12—The Soviet Union supports Vietnam's proposal stated in its Foreign Ministry's recent statement that the National Supreme Council of Cambodia should start its activities immediately, concerned countries stop supplying weapons to the warring factions in Cambodia and its neighbouring countries commit not to allow other countries to send weapons through their territories, and that all Cambodian parties effect a ceasefire pending the signing of an overall agreement. This comes in a letter of March 7 of Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh in reply to Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach's letter.

Of late, together with the statement released on February 28, 1991 proposing all countries stop their military aid to all warring factions in Cambodia, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach also sent letters to the two cochairmen of the International Conference on Cambodia, the secretary general of the United Nations, the foreign minister of the Soviet Union and the state secretary of the

United States, which had put forth the September 23, 1989 initiative, and a number of other foreign ministers of concerned countries.

In his letter, the Soviet diplomat affirmed that the Soviet Union agrees with Vietnam on the need to solve the Cambodian conflict peacefully with due consideration for the genuine interests of the Cambodian people and others on the Indochinese peninsula. He highly valued Vietnam's withdrawal of its Army volunteers from Cambodia and the Indochinese countries' constructive policies which, he said, have, together with the efforts made by permanent members of the Security Council and other concerned countries, contributed to a fine opportunity for finding a solution to the Cambodian issue.

The Soviet Union will do its utmost to step up the realization of these proposals, the Soviet foreign minister said. He stressed on the significance of the coordination of actions between the Soviet Union and Vietnam during the present stage of the settlement process of the Cambodian issue. He expressed his conviction that the valuable coordination of two countries in the political and other fields over the past decades will be maintained and further developed.

NHAN DAN 40th Anniversary Celebrated

BK1203122791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Summary] A solemn ceremony was held in Hanoi this morning by NHAN DAN—a central organ of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV]—to mark its 40th anniversary, 11 March 51-91 and to receive the noble Ho Chi Minh Order.

"Attending the ceremony together with cadres, reporters, editors, and workers of NHAN DAN were Comrades Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee; Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary; Dao Duy Tung, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary; Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly and vice-chairman of the State Council; Nguyen Khanh, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee Presidium; many other comrades in the party Secretariat, the State Council, National Assembly, and Council of Ministers; heads and deputy heads of party Central Committee departments; ministers and vice ministers; and secretaries and deputy secretaries from city party committees of Hanoi and Haiphong, and Bac Thai, Vinh Phu, Ha Bac, Hai Hung, Ha Son Binh, Ha Nam Ninh, Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa, and Nghe Tinh Provinces." The delegations of Lao PASASON, Cambodian PRACHEACHON, Soviet PRAVDA, and Japanese AKAHATA also attended the ceremony.

Delivering a speech at the ceremony, Ha Dang, editor in chief of NHAN DAN retraced the history of the daily, its traditions, growth, and achievements which are "closely associated with the struggle history of our party and people during the two resistance struggles against France and the United States to liberate and reunify the country, build socialism, and carry out the current renovation process." After pointing out that the daily is still not living up to the potential of its duty, Ha Dang said: "Our editorial staff and all the workers of the party's newspaper pledge to do their utmost to bring the daily up to the standards of its new duties. In the immediate future, the daily will positively join the preparations for the Seventh Party Congress and the compilation of the political platform, the socioeconomic strategy, and the political and party building report. After the congress, its foremost important duty will be to propagate the party's fundamental viewpoints on the advance to socialism in our country in close connection with the propaganda campaigns to educate all party members and the people in the implementation of the congress resolutions, shaping up a new revolutionary atmosphere and a vigorous revolutionary impetus to make the people exercise their mastery over all political, economic, cultural, and social domains in order to build a new society of the people, for the people, and by the people."

Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, alias journalist NVL, addressed the ceremony:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] "Dear comrades and dear international friends, I am very happy to attend this ceremony to mark the 40th anniversary of NHAN DAN, a central organ of our party. This is an important event to the contingent of NHAN DAN workers as well as to large numbers of NHAN DAN readers. In the past 40 years of its operation, inheriting the glorious cause of its predecessors, NHAN DAN has manifested its guidance for our party and state to implement the political duties through the various stages of resistance struggle against colonialist aggressors to build socialism in the North, reunify the country, build and defend socialism countrywide, develop the party, and fulfill international duties.

"Particularly, in the renovation process since the end of the Sixth Party Congress, NHAN DAN has brought into play its role on the party's ideological battlefront. It has renovated its contents and forms. It has realistically reflected the people's aspirations and initiatives, cited new factors emerging from everyday life, struggled against erroneous viewpoints and negative behavior and filed petitions aimed at perfecting the policies and lines of our party and state.

"Alongside the NHAN DAN daily, the NHAN DAN Sunday issue has better reflected our multifaceted life. On this occasion, on behalf of the party Central Committee, I warmly commend all the NHAN DAN workers and expect that the party's newspaper with its political steadfastness will provide more timely and fruitful information to make itself more attractive and useful with every passing day to large numbers of its readers. [applause]" [end recording]

Then, the general secretary made some suggestions to make NHAN DAN ever more attractive and useful to its readers. Finally, he said:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] "It goes without saying that the revolutionary press operates under party leadership. Party leadership, however, must be renovated and in fact, it has been and is being renovated. This means that the press operates along the party's lines and viewpoints. The party is dutybound to keep the press informed of its viewpoints and lines, and to foster the contingent of press cadres. Yet, the specific responsibility for each newspaper and each written article rests with the editor in chief and writers of the newspaper. We must do away with the method of giving orders as we used to do before.

"Since the press operates under state management control, all newspapers of the party Central Committee as well as those of mass and party organizations must operate in accordance with law. The government and state agencies should heed and work regularly with the contingents of press workers in order to keep them promptly informed of the lines and policies of the state, answer the questions of interest to readers, take care of working facilities and the material and spiritual lives of press workers, and attentively renovate the equipment of printing, publishing, and distributing newspapers to the people countrywide.

"In order to accomplish the above-mentioned tasks, it is of prime importance that we must constantly train, foster, and forge the contingents of press workers. Press workers must first of all have steady political ability, resolutely support and protect their independent and creative thinking in our party's renovation process, promote new factors, struggle against erroneous viewpoints and acts, help extricate the country from the socioeconomic crisis and advance it step by step to prosperity and power in the socialist direction.

"As the press is an occupation, we must constantly study it and learn from one another. We must review our work generally in order to forge our professional ability. These are essential conditions for constantly enhancing the quality of the contingent of the party's press workers. This serves as a basis for the press to get many talented pens to write accurate and good articles that are steadfast in terms of viewpoints and vivid in presentation.

"President Ho used to write to our press workers, pens are sharp weapons. The press articles are revolutionary proclamations. On the occasion of NHAN DAN's 40th anniversary, I would like to offer some hints expecting that the contingents of NHAN DAN workers persistenly learn from Uncle Ho's ideas and behavior toward the press. He is the teacher of the Vietnamese revolution and the revolutionary press of our country. I expect that NHAN DAN will strive to make an outstanding effort to overcome all difficulties, remain steadfast in all situations, continually renovate itself, and remain always worthy of being the party's sharp ideological weapon and a close reliable friend of the people. [applause]" [end recording]

In the elated atmosphere of the ceremony, Comrade Huu Tho, NHAN DAN deputy editor in chief, read a decision of the State Council, conferring the Ho Chi Minh Order on NHAN DAN workers, because the newspaper has made great contributions to the common cause of the Revolution over the past 40 years.

"Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly and vice chairman of the State Council, awarded the noble Ho Chi Minh Order to editor in chief Ha Dang amid resounding applause."

Then, the Lao PASASON and Cambodian PRACHEACHON delegates presented their greetings and the ceremony concluded amid the tune, As if Uncle Ho Is Still Living on the Liberation Day.

Investment Forum To Attract Foreign Business

BK1203073791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 12 Mar 91

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, March 12 (AFP)—Vietnamese officials here for an international investment forum are praising their country's economic stability in a bid to attract foreign businessmen to their cash-starved country.

"Vietnam's political stability has been tested and proven," said Vo Dong Giang, vice-chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (CCI). "The fact that there has been no unrest in these times of major economic crisis is further evidence of this.

"Foreign businessmen must understand that Vietnam is not a country where they will run risks linked to instability," he said in an interview. "This is because the people of Vietnam understand very well that the state must do what it has to do."

Western experts fear that official Vietnamese apathy to the liberalization that has swept most socialist countries could result in political instability.

They see this as a major obstacle to foreign investment.

Vietnamese officials have condemned the trend toward democratization in their former allies of the Eastern bloc and reiterated their determination to "continue building socialism" in Vietnam.

CCI Chairman Dau Ngoc Xuan said in a speech before the forum here Monday that Vietnam was pursuing a policy of "national unity and harmony."

"Our political duty is to reunite all national forces, whatever their past or their ideology, to build a strong and independent Vietnam," he told more than 1,000 Vietnamese and foreign particpants in the United Nations-sponsored forum, the first of its kind in Vietnam.

There has, however, been some movement for change in the country, and the seventh congress of the ruling communist party scheduled for June is expected to be held against a backdrop of increasing demand for more democracy among young Vietnamese and some of the country's intellectuals.

A number of petitions have appeared over the past few weeks seeking more liberal policies, some of them signed by leading members of the intelligentsia such as journalist and author Nguyen Khac Vien and the former deputy editor of the official daily NHAN DAN, Bui Tin, currently a resident in France.

"Of course, these petitions show that there is some desire for change," said a Vietnamese official who asked to remain anonymous. "But I don't think they are challenging the leadership of the party, the majority of which favors a policy of renewal.

"The (communist) party is capable of regaining the popularity it has lost over the past few years," the official said, "if it demonstrates that it is determined to overcome the economic crisis and and fight against the corruption that has crippled it in recent years."

Official Interviewed on Investment Forum

BK1203072391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Interview with Nguyen Van Ich, deputy head of the State Commission for Investment, on the significance of a UNIDO- and UNDP-sponsored investment forum to be held 11-15 Mar in Ho Chi Minh City by unidentified correspondent of the Ho Chi Minh City Journal TUOI TRE [Youth] ; date and place of interview not given—read by announcer]

[Summary] [Correspondent] "Comrade: Does this forum have any purpose other than that in those seminars previously held in a number of European and Asian countries to introduce Vietnam's investment law in an effort to seek more guest investors?"

[Ich] "After three years of implementing the law on foreign investment, the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI) has granted 217 licenses for investment totaling around $1.4 billion. This shows that the investment law possesses certain appealing powers. But we are still passive, we are waiting for the foreign companies to come so we can discuss with them what they want instead of propelling them to come into our country, introducing to them our existing potentials, and expressing our desire to cooperate with them.

"This time, in coordination with the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the UN Development Program (UNDP), the SCCI will organize a forum to continue to pursue the above objective and to create conditions for foreign companies to understand our country's socioeconomic situation."

[Correspondent] Could you speak of preparations for this forum?

[Ich] Apart from cooperating with local business units, the SCCI has also cooperated with the two international organizations cited above in preparing an agenda for the forum. It has cooperated with many units in Ho Chi Minh City in preparing working places and food, housing, and entertainment facilities for guests taking part in the forum.

[Correspondent] How many people have accepted our invitation?

[Ich] "So far, 320 foreign guests and 450 local guests have registered for attendance and this figure is rising with every passing day."

[Correspondent] Why is Ho Chi Minh City chosen as a venue for the forum?

[Ich] "Because Ho Chi Minh City is one of the country's large economic centers where there are favorable conditions and facilities for a large international forum of this kind."

[Correspondent] Can investment-minded producers and businessmen attend this forum?

[Ich] "The biggest problem now facing the organizing committee is that there are so many Vietnamese guests registering for the forum at a time when the conference hall has limited space. As priority is given to those who are chief project investors and other invited guests, we hope to see local representatives at a future forum."

[Correspondent] "Thank you, comrade."

Vo Van Kiet Addresses Investment Forum Opening

BK1203091991 Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 12—An investment forum for Vietnam was opened yesterday morning at the Thong Nhat conference hall in Ho Chi Minh City. The forum, the first ever in Vietnam, was jointly sponsored by the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Participating in the forum are more than 600 delegates from 39 countries and representatives of various international and regional organizations, diplomatic corps, foreign companies and banks having branch offices in Vietnam. On the Vietnamese side are 400 representatives of economic and technical services and owners of projects opened to foreign investment.

Among the officials present at the opening ceremony, were Vo Van Kiet, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Dau Ngoc Xuan, SCCI president; Domingo Siazon, UNIDO director general; and David Smith, UNDP resident representative in Hanoi.

In his opening speeech, Vo Van Kiet said the open-door policy of Vietnam which has been impelmented in the past four years has brought about initial achievements in shifting the centralized economy to the regulated market economy.

He stressed "the Vietnamese strategy in economic renovation includes coooperation with foreign countries as exemplified by the promulgation of the foreign investment law in December 1987. It is our view that the best guarantee for a healthy environment in foreign investment is a thorough and uniform implementation of the renovation policy. With our goodwill, we welcomed your ideas and your suggestion with a view to broadening our cooperation with the outside world, on the basis of equality and mutual benefits."

In his speech, Dau Ngoc Xuan outlined the policy of all-sided renovation of Vietnam, together with policies, to create a stable situation for renewal and development.

He reviewed the successes already achieved in renovation in general and foreign investment in particular, pointing to the remaining problems in the fields of infrastructure, feasibility study, transaction procedures, etc. He strongly affirmed that the Vietnamese Government is doing its best to overcome these shortcomings, especially bureaucracy and complicated procedures, in order to make Vietnam an attractive field for foreign investors.

In the afternoon, Minister Vo Dong Giang, vice-chairman of SCCI, and heads of different branches such as finance, banking, commerce labour and social welfare met with foreign businenmen to answer their questions relating to the policies and law on foreign investment.

Nguyen Khanh Addresses Culture Conference

BK1103154191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] After three working days, the 1990 National Conference on Culture, Information, and Tourism concluded in Hanoi on 4 March.

Attending and giving a speech at the conference, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Khanh praised the great efforts of the culture, information, sports, and tourism section, including some units which have worked effectively and achieved high quality in the service of party political work to fulfill the spiritual demands of our people.

Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh also acknowledged the section's progress in state management work and in specialized activities. He considered that the legal work on information media, publication, and the work of controlling and investigation performed by the section in 1990 yielded encouraging results.

Pointing out clearly the section's difficulties in 1991, especially the black conspiracy of the imperialist and international reactionary forces aimed at opposing and sabotaging socialism, including in Vietnam, Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh reminded the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Tourism to intensify state management in its field; strengthen leadership and control of cultural and information activities; contribute to stabilizing cadres' and people's thoughts; and build a healthy cultural life for the whole nation. At the same time, the ministry should quickly reinforce relations within the section from the central to the grass-roots level and consolidate culture, information, and sports offices in provinces in order to enhance the working capacity of the whole section.

Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh confirmed that the state would continue to invest suitably and the cultural section must consider measures to increase income from cultural, information, sports, and tourism activities to ensure their work when the people's demand is increasing every day.

On this occasion, the Council of Ministers granted 1990 Movement Flags to two central units and six local units of the section.

Women's Union Head Interviewed on Women's Day

BK1103105791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Interview with Mrs Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the party Central Committee and chairwoman of the Vietnam Women's Union, by station correspondent on Vietnamese Women's contributions to renovation in implementing the Sixth Party Congress resolution; date, place not given—recorded]

[Summary] [Correspondent] On the occasion of this year's International Women's Day, could you tell us about Vietnamese women's contributions to the renovation process?

[Nguyen Thi Dinh] "Although 1990 was a complicated year, women's unions at all levels have strived to overcome difficulties and accelerate the production and thrift movement among women of all strata, implementing the Sixth Party Congress resolution well." They have helped advance the country by helping one another in the renovation process under several fruitful projects to vigorously accelerate production, develop family-based economy, and create more jobs for women.

[Correspondent] Could you tell us about the 1991 guidelines for Vietnamese women to score achievements to greet the Seventh Party Congress?

[Nguyen Thi Dinh] "In 1991, through various motivation campaigns, women's unions will continue to implement the objectives of the Sixth Party Congress and accomplish the Seventh Party Congress." They will actively provide guidance for women to help one another in developing family economy and caring for the livelihood of children and women, qualitatively improve the campaign for child education and family planning, expand their relations with international organizations for help to Vietnamese women, educate women on mothers' responsibility, create more jobs for women, and build happy families. "In 1990 women of all strata contributed their views to the Seventh Party Congress documents. In 1991 they will accelerate all activities to score achievements in greeting the party congresses at all levels on the strength of mustering intelligence and effort to help build the economic strategy."

[Correspondent] Could you tell us the preparations for the seventh congress of women's unions in 1992?

[Nguyen Thi Dinh] In this coming congress of the women's union, we will "continue to renovate the operational scope, method and machinery of all level unions." In this connection, we will have to make intensive efforts to formulate the union's action program and learn from the experiences of women in the world. "Today, on the occasion of the International Women's Day, on behalf of the Vietnam Women's Union Central Committee, I cordially present my best greetings to Vietnamese women and foreign women now working in Vietnam and I wish them all good health and luck and happiness throughout this year."

EEC Helps Generate Jobs for Returnees

BK1203140691 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Right after its establishment of diplomatic relations with Vietnam, the European Economic Community [EEC] has worked out a program to help the voluntary repatriation of those who have left the country illegally.

Recently a delegation of EEC specialists visited Vietnam. On this occasion a correspondent of the International Relations Review of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry interviewed Mr. John W. Pilgrim, head of the delegation, and Mr. Anthony Erick de Hawjevij, coordinator of the Program for Resettlement of Repatriates [names as heard].

Asked about the visit, Mr. Pilgrim said his delegation had visited Vietnam in early January to carry out an EEC aid program for Vietnamese who have left the country illegally now voluntarily repatriated. [as heard] He said that Vietnam has great potential for investment and market development. There are prospects for providing jobs to people in fisheries. However, capital must be invested in building and equipping fishing establishments. He also said that besides fisheries, agriculture has great potentials. He and his party visited a job placement center where they noticed a lack of necessary equipment.

On EEC programs, Mr. Pilgrim said these are humanitarian programs. The EEC invests in the fields which provide jobs and boost production. He hoped that this EEC aid program for the settlement of repatriates would be carried out.

Asked to comment on this program, Mr. Anthony Erick de Hawjevij said: Under the 1 December 1990 agreement, three pilot sites have been chosen. They are Quang Ninh and Hai Phong in northern Vietnam, and Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam. The EEC program would probably provide credit for investment in private and family economic sectors and agriculture and private fisheries, small and medium enterprises and services. This program is carried out through the central and local banks in providing jobs for repatriates and other people, including urban dwellers.

EEC will also provide funds to carry out material projects through appropriate communities to supply equipment to medical centers, build infrastructures and invest in agricultural production such as embanking dikes and irrigation works.

The first phase of this program is to help promote jobs and build training centers for repatriates and other people. This program is aided by EEC in equipment and personnel training. The program also includes the promotion of information systems and two-way communication for inmates in refugee camps in Hong Kong and other Asian countries and countries concerned about the EEC programs.

Mr. Anthony Erick de Hawjevij said: With this program, EEC wants to help Vietnam resettle the repatriates, thus contributing to stabilizing the socioeconomic situation in Vietnam.

Australia

Taiwan Allowed To Open Commercial Office

BK1303110891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1048 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Canberra, March 13 (AFP)—Australia has granted Taiwan permission to open a commercial office here in the capital, a spokesman for Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Wednesday.

The spokesman said the government had indicated its approval several weeks ago. Taiwan has been pressing to expand its commercial representation in Australia for some months and has been negotiating for direct flights between the two countries.

Mr. Evan's spokesman said commercial representation for Taiwan was "not linked in any direct way" with the issue of direct flights.

The move comes despite China's sensitivity to any strenghtening of diplomatic or similar ties between Canberra and Taipei, which still claims sovereignty over the mainland.

New Zealand

Relations With Pacific Islands Reviewed

BK1003112191 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] A thawing relationship between New Zealand and Fiji could soon lead to resumption of military aid. Foreign Minister Don McKinnon led a ministerial visit to Fiji, Niue, and the Cook Islands in January as part of his familiarization trip of the South Pacific. This was Mr. McKinnon's first overseas mission as foreign minister since the Nationals won last October elections in New Zealand.

Our Wellington correspondent Brendon Byrnes accompanied Mr. McKinnon and reports on the minister's attempt to encourage a return to democracy in Fiji and on the view expressed by the host nation for wider regional economic security.

[Begin recording] [Byrnes] The shadows of the two 1987 military coups still linger in Fiji more than three years after Major General Sitiveni Rabuka led his armed troops into Parliament and ended democracy. New Zealand's foreign minister and deputy prime minister, Don McKinnon, chose to accept the advice of his Ministry of External Relations and Trade and entered Fiji during its twilight period between the military coups and the new elections expected later this year. Under the New Zealand Labor Government, there was a policy of no ministerial contact with Fiji. Mr. McKinnon dubbed his visit a recognition of reality.

New Zealand has made its protest, there is nothing it can do to change the new Constitution, even if it sticks in Kiwi beaks that Fiji's 52 percent non-Fijian population gain less seats than ethnic Fijians under the new political structure. It seems inherent in agreeing to the visit by Mr. McKinnon that Fiji's interim prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, required that his government would not be publicly criticized. Mr. McKinnon could only weakly report after meeting Ratu Mara that he made a few comments about the new Constitution and human rights issues and that these had been taken on board.

[McKinnon] I did not come here to lecture the Fiji Government. I want to establish good relations with the government. It is going to take time because we have been separated for a few years. I want to be in a position where I can ring any one of these cabinet ministers as often as I want and talk about a number of subjects. You do not achieve that if you come up here and start kicking people around. We did not come to be Rambo; we did not come to be Mother Teresa.

[Byrnes] There were a host of reasons preventing Mr. McKinnon from taking a swipe at Fiji's post-coup records. Ratu Mara is the South Pacific's elder statesman having guided Fiji into independence in 1970. He has wide support in the region from those who share a belief that ethnic races should remain paramount in their own nations. New Zealand puts great store on its relationships in the South Pacific and it was judged time to make friends again with one of the region's major players.

Beyond the external politics, there is a fragility about Fiji that is of concern to New Zealand. After meeting Ratu Mara and his cabinet, Mr. McKinnon was less than convincing when asked for his views on the stability of Fiji.

[McKinnon] I feel that there is a chance for elections to take place which will be reasonably acceptable, which will see people's... [changes thought] if given a chance to maybe change things in the distant...[changes thought] medium future, that is certainly the view conveyed to me by, I think, it was some business people, earlier on. You know, we have to get on with our job of seeing the country function, and this is the best we are going to get.

[Byrnes] Mr. McKinnon's hesistancy about Fiji's future partly centers on Major General Rabuka. He is judged by New Zealand officials to be a likely cabinet member after the scheduled elections, and that he might even achieve his stated aim of becoming prime minister. New Zealand's view is that further military intervention cannot be ruled out while Rabuka remains head of the Fijian armed forces. Beyond the specter of a return to power by Maj. Gen. Rabuka, there are major difficulties in forming a Fijian party which can hold power even with its skewed number of seats under the new Constitution. The old Alliance Party which Ratu Mara led to to power in 1970 used to be broadly supported by Fijians. Now attempts are being made to form a new party to draw Fijian votes. But as the elections 1987 showed, when Dr. Bavadra's coalition government came to power, many urbant Fijians have become disenchanted with the Alliance Party, and perhaps any party which succeeds it.

Some political analysts in Fiji do not rule out an Indian-dominated government once again arising under the new Constitution. This provides for 37 Fijian seats, 27

Indian, and six general seats. Ratu Mara told Don McKinnon that he will not stand again for elected office. He is adamant he will not again face what he considers the humiliating process of electioneering. Fiji's president, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, is also approaching retirement although Ratu Mara may well take this non-elected post.

The absence of Ratu Mara from the election process will leave a political vacuum in Fiji. His likely successor is finance minister, Joe Kamikamica, very much in Ratu Mara's aloof mold.

But not only the interim government faces problems in the run-up to the promised elections. The coalition opposition made up of the National Federation Party which is Indian, and the Fijian Labor Party are seeing their threat to boycott to elections dissipate. Mrs. Adi Kuini Bavadra, wife of the late deposed prime minister, held an hour long meeting with Mr. McKinnon who has urged the coalition to take part in the elections and try and improve the Constitution from within Parliament.

Mrs. Bavadra said Mr. McKinnon's advice adds to increasing domestic and external pressure on the coalition parties to abandon the boycott.

[Bavadra] That seems to be [words indistinct] like the other suggestions we received from Mr. Hawke for instance. But we have....[changes thought] As you know, our obligation is first and foremost to the feelings of our parties, and how our people feel about it. The dilemma that we face here is a serious one because it is based on a.... [changes thought] You know, the first concern is based on principles, on democratic principles. We think that if we were to participate, this might be taken as our effort to legitimize the Constitution. Outside governments might think that... [changes thought] I mean, as soon as they see us participating they might interpret it as business as usual that everything is now normal, that we accept the principles which we condemned in the first place as being an undemocratic election. So, based on this dilemma, in a way we have to reassess that, we will have to do a lot of hard thinking and [words indistinct] as wide a consultation as possible within the parties.

[Byrnes] But is the time going against the boycott?

[Bavadra] It appears to be that. It is too early for me to say that, you know, but we might be able to (?change that).

[Byrnes] When it comes to taking part in the elections, the coalition seems unlikely to still be led by Adi Bavadra. She has recently become engaged to an Australian and plans to live part of her time outside Fiji. A former member of her late husband's cabinet, Mr. Tupeni Baba, is tipped as a replacement. Whether she or someone else leads the coalition, it remains staunchly critical of Mr. McKinnon's plan to resume New Zealand's military aid to Fiji after the elections. One hope of Mr. McKinnon is that by again training Fijian soldiers, this will instill in them New Zealand traditions, such as not interfering in democratic processes. This neglects the fact that Major General Rabuka did much of his training in New Zealand. But Fiji observers discount the prospects of any return to military intervention.

Maj. Gen. Rabuka is now judged by New Zealand analysts to have achieved two of the three aims of his military coups, Fijian control of their destiny and preservation of their indigenous rights and customs. His third goal, increased economic participation for Fijians, will prove more difficult. Indians dominate commerce and business in Fiji. But as more and more Fijians are exposed to tourists and Western and Japanese lifestyles, so expectations will rise. In 1989, Fiji experienced a remarkable economic growth of 12.5 percent. Last year, a still impressive 6 percent. The Alliance government was defeated in 1987 partly because of a growing resentment among poor Fijians that they were not getting a fair share of their country's wealth. Ensuring a more equitable distribution of wealth may well be the key to the future stability of Fiji. Prior to that, New Zealand hopes for an election which gives Fijians the chance to cast off the shadow of the 1987 military coups and to return to a form of democracy which while flawed is in the New Zealand view at least better than non-elected government.

During the six-hour stopover in Niue, Mr. McKinnon faced democracy taken to absurdity. The rock outcrop, population 2,183, has 20 members of Parliament. One MP is reported to have 14 contituents. Sir Robert Rex, the 82-year-old premier since independence in 1974, has allowed his dwindling population on Niue to become dependent on New Zealand aid money.

Niue gets nearly $10 million [currency not further specified] a year in aid from New Zealand, the equivalent of $100 a week for each Niuean. The money maintains a public service of 600 people, about one in three of the Niuean population. Mr. McKinnon read the riot act to Sir Robert, demanding improved efficiency from aid funding. But the octogenarian leader says he has reservations about whether he can deliver the expected improvements.

A contrast was provided for Mr. McKinnon in the Cook Islands, where tourism, food exports, and the island's tax haven status have seen aid dependence markedly reduced in recent years. Cook Islands Prime Minister, Geoffrey Henry, is an energetic leader whose aspirations some times create irritation to New Zealand which normally retains defense and foreign affairs responsibilities for its former territory.

With 2 million square kilometers of sea surrounding his nation, Mr. Henry outlined to Mr. McKinnon the proposal to have the French military assist with maritime surveillance of Cook Island waters. Mr. McKinnon professes to be calm about such assistance so long as the French merely observe Cook Island waters, while plying enroute to and from their own economic zones.

[McKinnon] Around them, the French—given their own areas of economic zones around French Polynesia and New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna themselves—have enormous areas to cover, and in overflying their areas they are passing on information from other areas is all contributing to information which is valuable to the whole Pacific.

[Byrnes] Prime Minister Henry promises to show New Zealand the draft Maritime Surveillance Agreement with France before it is signed by the Cook Islands. He relishes his emerging role as a statesman for the South Pacific, telling Mr. McKinnon he had twice met President Bush in the last year, each time urging that the United States and New Zealand should again become friends.

Prime Minister Henry has in the past suggested that with the loss of the ANZUS [Australia, New Zealand, and United States] defense connection with the United States, New Zealand may be unable to defend the Cooks if called upon. But his more important advice to Mr. McKinnon was that the Cook Islands requires economic security rather than military security to ensure its stability. This is a message which echoes across the South Pacific.

With the budget under tight restraint and aid more likely to be cut than increased by the national government, Mr. McKinnon faces a difficult time ahead in registering New Zealand's support for the region it considers its own front yard. But at least Mr. McKinnon has, through his visit to Fiji, Niue, and the Cook Islands, shown his new government's interests in the South Pacific and indicated its policy approach, to Fiji in particular, will be one of pragmatic warm handshakes rather than principled cold shoulders. [end recording]

Papua New Guinea

Minister Denies 'Rift' With Solomon Islands

BK1303083891 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Papua New Guinea's foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, has denied that there is a diplomatic rift between Port Moresby and Honiara over a ban on a Solomon Islands journalist, Mr. (Alfred Sesako). His comments follow statements by government ministers in Port Moresby over a decision to appoint Mr. (Sesako) as information and publications officer with the South Pacific Forum. The appointment would require Mr. (Sesako) to make regular visits to Papua New Guinea.

Sir Michael said a ban imposed on Mr. (Sesako) over an unauthorized visit to Bougainville would remain in force for what he described as a long time. He also denied that he had told a news conference that he would, "slap Mr. (Sesako's) face." He explained that what he really said was that the decision to make the forum appointment after the ban order on Mr. (Sesako) was made amounted to a slap in the face for Papua New Guinea.

However, a Radio Australia correspondent says tape recordings of the news conference clearly showed that Mr. Somare did say he would slap Mr. (Sesako's) face.

Solomon Islands

Reaction to PNG Criticism of Forum Appointment

BK0903065891 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Solomon Islands' leaders have reacted angrily to criticism by Papua New Guinea [PNG] of the appointment of a Solomon Islands' journalist to a senior regional post. Mr. Alfred (Sesako), has been appointed information officer for the South Pacific Forum, but PNG has said it will not let him enter the country even on official business.

The PNG foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, said if he had the chance he would slap Mr. (Sesako)'s face. Mr. (Sesako) was banned from entering PNG earlier this year after he travelled to Bougainville without permission to write articles on the secessionists' dispute.

Sir Michael's comments have drawn strong criticism from the former Solomon Islands' ambassador to the UN, Mr. Francis Saemala, who is now a member of parliament.